

MAR 1975 ★ 10p

SOLDIER





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FRONT COVER

Soldiers of the Royal Corps of Transport prove their versatility on foot patrol in the border town of Clogher, Northern Ireland, fulfilling an infantry role they have rarely been called upon to perform in the history of their corps.

Picture by Paul Haley.

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH (Ext 2589)
Research: BILL SMITHMAN (Ext 2591)
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)
Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD (Ext 2583/2587)
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)
Accounts: J ANDERSON (Ext 2593)

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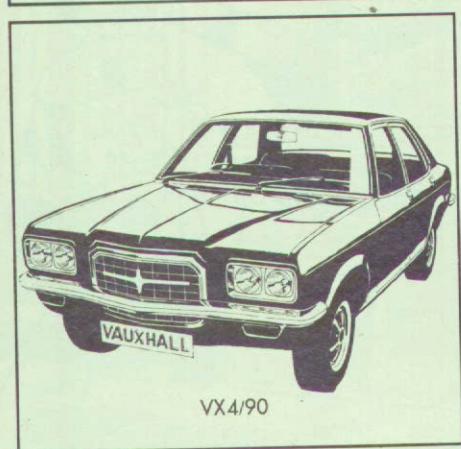
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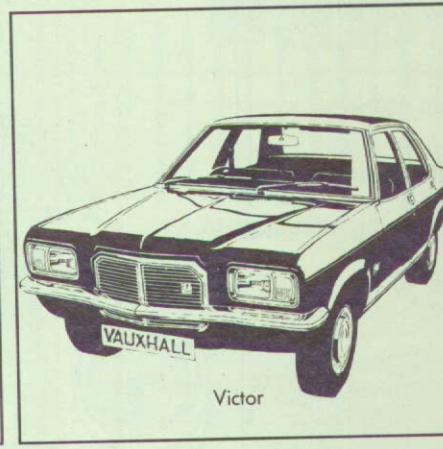
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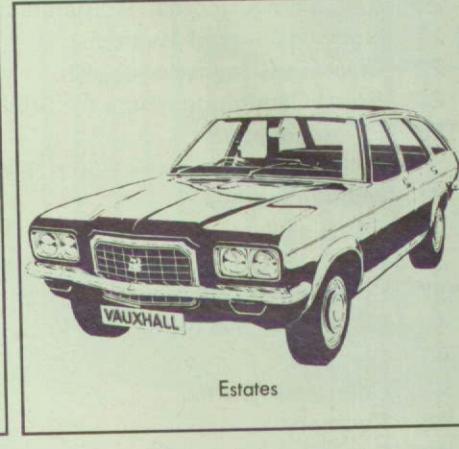
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

MAY 1975

- 3 Queen Mother presents new Colours to 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, Colchester.
- 4 Cavalry Sunday, Hyde Park, London.
- 6 Military Spectacular, Folkestone (band 1 RGJ).**
- 8 Fremington (Devon) Training Camp Display (SSAFA) (Junior Parachute Company Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 10 Blackheath (London) Village Fayre (Red Devils freefall team).
- 10 Glasgow KAPE (10-17 May) (two bands; Royal Signals motorcycle display team White Helmets; **Blue Eagles helicopter display team (12-17)**).
- 14 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 16 Telford (Shropshire) Tattoo (16-17 May).
- 16 Devon County Show, Exeter (16-18 May) (infantry displays).
- 17 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Carnival (band).
- 17 Wiltshire Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Great Somerford (Royal Military Police mounted display team Red Caps).
- 17 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band 17 May; Red Caps 23-24 May).
- 17 Shell Sport, Buxton (Red Devils).
- 18 Middlesbrough Show (White Helmets).
- 21 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (21-22 May) (Red Caps; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, gymnastic display; six bands).
- 21 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 23 Royal Windsor Horse Show (23-24 May) (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 23 Aldershot Horse Show (23-25 May) (Red Caps 25 May).
- 24 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 24 Tidworth Tattoo (24-26 May).
- 24 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (24-26 May).
- 24 Worcester City Show (24-26 May) (junior soldiers unarmed combat; **Blue Eagles (24-25)**; three bands).
- 24 Edinburgh KAPE (24 May-1 June) (three displays; two bands).
- 24 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band).
- 24 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 26 Selby (Yorkshire) Carnival (band).**
- 26 Swaffham (Norfolk) Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 26 Newcastle West End Festival (band).
- 26 Barnard Castle Meet (band).
- 26 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (band).
- 26 Hertfordshire Show, Redburn (7 Para RHA Black Knights freefall team; band).
- 26 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Caps; Red Devils).
- 26 Shell Sport, Thruxton (Red Devils).
- 26 Hove Lions Fête (Red Devils).
- 28 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 28 Suffolk County Show, Ipswich (28-29 May) (Pegasus gymnastic team; RGJ freefall team; band).
- 30 Wigan Army Display (30 May-1 June) (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Pegasus gymnastic team; Red Caps; Red Devils; **Blue Eagles**; three bands).
- 31 Salisbury Hospital Fête (band).
- 31 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.**
- 31 Bluecoat School, Sonning, Berkshire (Red Devils).

JUNE 1975

- 2 King's Troop RHA gun salute, Hyde Park, London (Coronation).
- 3 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (3-5 June).
- 4 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 5 Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge (5-7 June), (White Helmets; bands, pipes, drums).
- 5 South of England Show, Ardingly, Sussex (5-7 June) (Red Caps; Red Devils).

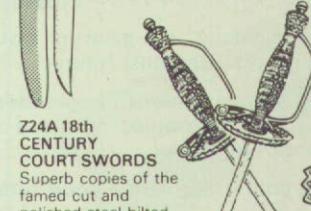
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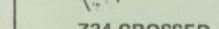
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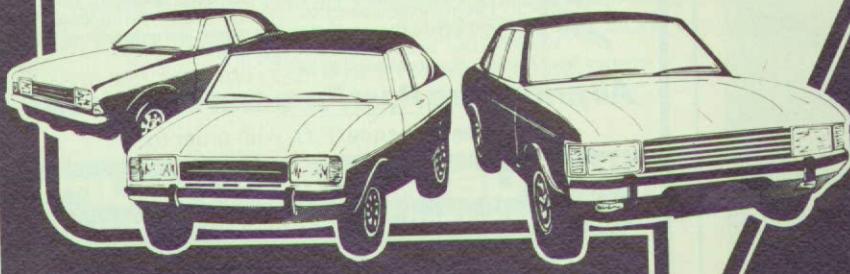
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DIARY

continued

- 5 Richmondshire Festival, Richmond Castle (two bands, drums, bugles).
- 7 Lord Mayor's Parade, Sheffield (band).
- 7 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
- 7 Glasgow KAPE (7-17 June) (band).
- 7 Chester Army Display (7-8 June) (Red Devils; **Blue Eagles**; White Helmets **8 June**; three bands).
- 7 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 7 Wolverhampton Fiesta Carnival (Red Devils; bands; display teams).
- 10 King's Troop RHA gun salute, Hyde Park, London (Duke of Edinburgh's birthday).
- 10 Three Counties Show, Malvern (10-12 June) (Red Caps).
- 11 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 13 Scunthorpe Families Day (13-15 June) (display team; **Blue Eagles** **14-15**; band).
- 13 Essex Show, Chelmsford (13-14 June) (Red Caps; band).
- 14 Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps Fête.
- 14 Branksome, Darlington, School Fayre (band).
- 14 Laing Gala Day, London (White Helmets).
- 14 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (RA motorcyclists; band).
- 14 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 15 Laying-up Colours 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, Guildford Cathedral.
- 18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (display team; Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 19 Mercedes Show, Eastbourne (Red Devils).
- 21 South Tyneside Sports Week (21 June-5 July) (band).
- 21 Leighton Buzzard Carnival (Red Caps; band).
- 21 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot (Red Devils; Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 21 Round Table Fête, Accrington (Red Devils; White Helmets).
- 21 Ripon Weekend Open Day.
- 22 Barnsley Show (White Helmets).
- 22 Priory School (Barnsley) Fair (White Helmets).
- 22 SSAFA Air Display, RAF Church Fenton (Blue Eagles, Silver Stars).
- 23 Mounted Military Tattoo, Paris (23-28 June).
- 25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (display team; band).
- 25 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Red Caps; 16 bands).
- 28 Esher Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 28 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 28 Rushden Show, Northamptonshire (display team; band).
- 30 East Kent Army Week, Dover (30 June-5 July) (RE JLR gymnasts).

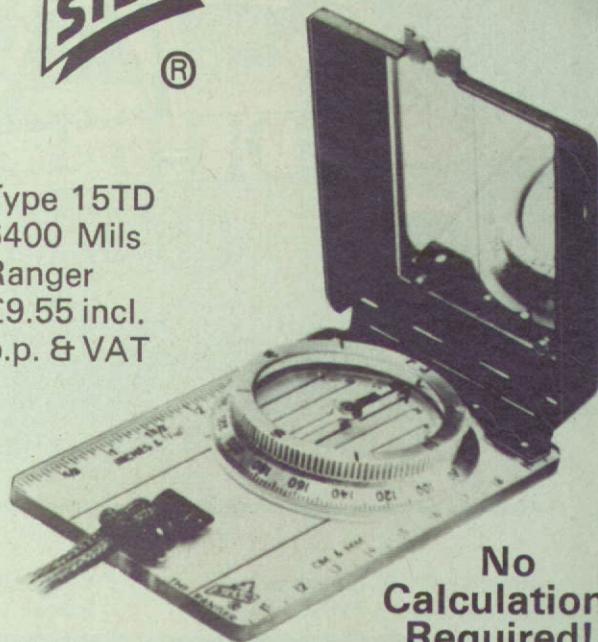
JULY 1975

- 1 Royal Agricultural Show, Kenilworth (Red Caps) (1-4 July).
- 2 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 3 Portsmouth Field Gun Show (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 4 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (4-6 July) (displays).
- 4 Poole (Dorset) Carnival (4-5 July) (band).
- 4 Royal Artillery (Woolwich) At Home (4-5 July).
- 4 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show (4-5 July) (displays).
- 5 Battle of Sedgemoor anniversary (5-6 July) (band; displays).
- 5 Military Musical Pageant (Army Benevolent Fund), Wembley Stadium.
- 5 Signal View, Worcester (White Helmets).
- 5 Hanworth (Middlesex) Carnival (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 5 Village Fête, Bedmond (Herts) (Red Devils).
- 5 Chichester Combined Charities Show (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 5 Exeter Air Day (junior band).
- 5 Wordsley (Stourbridge) Gala (White Helmets).
- 6 Leeds Horse Show (displays).
- 6 Oxted (Surrey) Village Fête (Red Devils).
- 7 Plymouth Services Week (7-12 July) (massed bands); freefall and P.T. displays.
- 8 Great Yorkshire Show (8-10 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 9 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 10 Dorchester Carnival (band).
- 10 Finchley Carnival (10-12 July) (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 10 Catterick 1875 (White Helmets).
- 11 Southampton Show (11-13 July) (Red Devils 12 July).
- 11 Kent County Show, Maidstone (11-12 July) (Red Caps).
- 12 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 12 Open Day, Depot, Queen's Division, Basingstoun, Hertfordshire.



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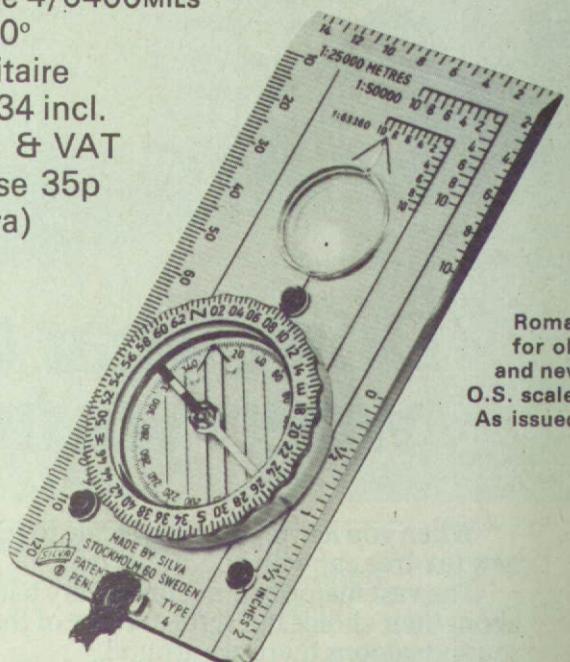


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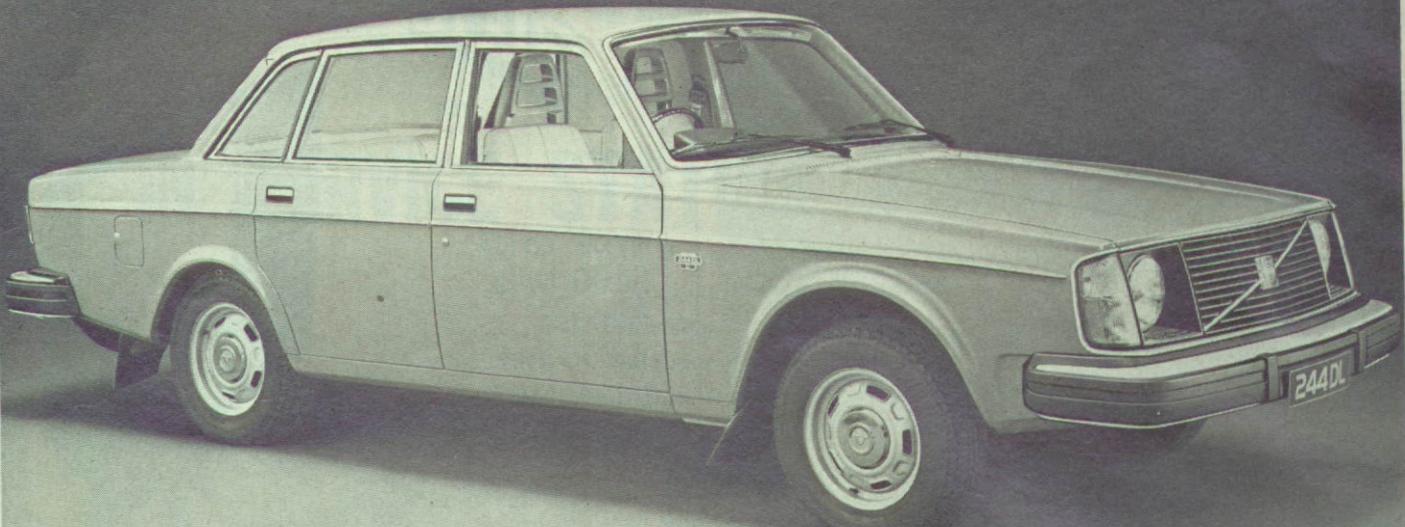
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VOLVO

SOLDIER to Soldier

Four pewter figures, which make ideal presentation items, are newly available to readers as a special offer of the SOLDIER Print Society. Another special offer is a range of Charles Stadden cards of British military uniforms, and to the eight prints initially offered by the Print Society have been added two further prints—a matching pair of the Horse Guards mounted sentries. In addition there are seven new designs to bring the range of regimental drum ice buckets to a total of 90 different designs.

The pewter figures, by Charles Stadden, are in 80-millimetre scale and cast in solid Buckingham pewter, each standing on a base depicting the appropriate regimental badge. The first four figures are Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards and The Parachute Regiment. They are offered either singly at £6.00 each (UK and BFPO) and £7.00 (elsewhere) or as a group of four at a special price of £22.00 (UK/BFPO) and £26.00 (elsewhere).

The new Stadden prints are of mounted sentries of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals. This matching pair is priced at £1.05 (UK/BFPO) and £1.10 (elsewhere). These two prints, like the first eight in this series of full-colour lithographs, measures 16 x 11 inches.

There are 45 Stadden cards of British military uniforms, all in full colour, ranging in date from a 3rd Foot caliverer of 1572 to ten uniforms of 1973, including the goat-major of The Royal Regiment of Wales and an airman of the Queen's Colour Squadron, RAF. The range includes uniforms of the old regiments of foot, cavalry regiments, drum-majors, pike-man, bugle-major, drummers and piper. Set 1, containing only nine cards (three subjects are sold out), costs 75 pence (UK/BFPO) and 85 pence (elsewhere). Set 2, of 12 cards with descriptive backs, is priced at 90 pence and £1.00. Sets 3 and 4, both with postcard backs, are at £1.00 and £1.10. Single cards are available only from sets 3 and 4, at 20 pence each (minimum order £1.00) plus 10 and 20 pence, post and packing, respectively. A full list of the sets and their subjects is available on request. Latest additions to the regimental drum ice bucket designs are: 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (1st Battalion), The Royal Irish Fusiliers (1st Battalion), The Yorkshire Volunteers, The London Scottish and the Royal Army Dental Corps. Regrettably, the "elsewhere" cost of an ice bucket has had to be increased to £6.40 to meet the new overseas postal rates. The UK price remains at £5.80 and BFPO at £5.35.

Both the Army Calendar 1975 and the Army Diary 1975 are now reduced in price. The calendar, at half-price plus postage, is now 28 pence (UK), 25 pence (BFPO) and 24 pence (elsewhere). The diary is reduced to 92 pence (UK), 92 pence (BFPO) and £1.12 (elsewhere), including postage and packing. The full list of SOLDIER's reader services will be republished in next month's issue.



Finally, from the new delights back to tried favourites—SOLDIER apologises to all these readers who scanned the April issue in vain for the "How Observant Are You?" feature. It was not forgotten or, after nearly 20 years, quietly dropped. It simply fell victim to the absence, through illness, of Art Editor Frank Finch—and is back this month, on page 16.

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Military museums: 28

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment



THREE regiments are commemorated in this well-arranged and spotlessly maintained museum—The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), The East Surrey Regiment (the old 31st and 70th Foot), and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the latter formed by the amalgamation of the two county regiments in 1959 and now part of The Queen's Regiment.

Wooden plaques in the entrance hall bear the names of colonels of The Queen's Royal Regiment from its raising in 1661 as The Tangiers Regiment to 1959 and those of the East Surreys starting with Colonel George Villiers, who raised the regiment in 1702 for service in the ships of Queen Anne's navy, thus earning it the title of "Villiers Marines." Both regiments have a nautical tradition and a number of exhibits bear this out, notably a desk which stood in Admiral Earl Howe's cabin in his flagship, the Queen Charlotte, at the victory of the "Glorious 1st of June" (1794) off Ushant when men of the Queen's, then the 2nd Foot, served as marines aboard Queen Charlotte and other ships. The Queen's Regiment still celebrates this victory with the Royal Navy and wears the naval crown on its Colours.

An extensive collection of medals ranging over 160 years from 1793 to 1953 is highlighted by the Victoria Cross Gallery. Of the 18 VCs won by members of the two old regiments—nine Queen's and nine Surreys—five are on show with photographs of the recipients.

The museum is housed in two large rooms and exhibits are arranged as far as possible in chronological order beginning with a portrait of Catherine of Braganza who as Charles II's bride—the port of Tangier was part of her dowry—became the queen from whom the Queen's took their title.

Although uniforms are prominently displayed, perhaps the most interesting exhibit for the enthusiast is the collection of coloured cut-out figures depicting types of dress worn by Surrey's two regiments from 1661 to 1944. Among several fine examples of Colours are those presented to the 70th Foot in 1867 and carried by 2nd Battalion of the East Surreys to Shanghai in 1938, then to Singapore where they remained in a bank throughout the Japanese occupation. World War Two over, they were retrieved

undamaged with the regimental silver and paraded for the last time in 1945.

A richly embroidered mandarin's coat, souvenir of the Boxer rebellion of 1900, and a valuable collection of porcelain taken from the Summer Palace, Peking, in 1860, are among fascinating mementoes of regimental operations in China. Items of militaria of every description from a Victorian aide-de-camp's brass cylindrical despatch case to helmet and crossbelt plates and two genuine Samurai swords fill several showcases.

There are relics of campaigns and battles—a Sikh standard captured at Sobraon in 1846, an Afghani Jezail musket recalling the Tirah campaign of 1897-1898, packs of emergency rations issued to troops in the South African War, a suit of chain mail captured in Northern Nigeria in 1903 and a bayonet removed from a German soldier as he slept in his World War One trench, but none stirs the imagination more than a football.

Now occupying a place of honour in the museum, this is one of the footballs which went into action with a company of the East Surreys in 1916 on the Somme. To encourage his men, who had to cross 400 yards of bullet-swept ground, the company commander gave each platoon a football to dribble forward during the attack. As they went "over the top" he "kicked off" and the soldiers advanced, kicking the footballs towards the enemy lines. They suffered casualties but the majority won through to their objective.

John Jesse

Officer-in-charge: Major F J Reed (Retd)
Hon Curator: Captain R J Berrow (Retd)

Address: The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum TAVR Centre Portsmouth Road Kingston-upon-Thames Surrey KT1 2NB

Telephone: 01-546 6248
Open: Monday to Friday, 0930 to 1230, 1330 to 1630
Closed: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays

Admission: Free
Amenities: Car park
To get there: Buses 281 from Surbiton station to Surbiton Terrace and 214, 216, 219 from Kingston station to Woodbines Avenue.

Next month: Royal Army Veterinary Corps

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Ronnie Barker

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Above: Wheelbarrow robot attaches grab and tow rope to suspect car.

Below: Mortar in a field—student setting the explosives to blow it up.



Above: Student prepares to X-ray a suspected bomb in a cardboard box.

Ammunition Academy

Story by John Walton / Pictures by Paul Haley

MOUSETRAPS, clothes pegs, carrier bags, old suitcases, and even old cars are some of the unusual items ordered in quantity to help train the men with the flaming bombs on their sleeves — ammunition technical officers (ATOs) and ammunition technicians (ATs) who have led the fight against the bombers in Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom these last few years.

The venue for the training is the Army School of Ammunition, for 50 years housed at Bramley, near Basingstoke, but now moved to purpose-built accommodation elsewhere. But even the new school, opened last year, was not completely geared to cope with the staggering upsurge in the anti-terrorist side of the ATOs' and ATs' work—the improvised explosive device courses as they are listed in the curriculum. In 1968-69 the number

of students trained by the Army School of Ammunition stood at 798 but five years later the figure was 1167—an increase mainly attributable to training for bomb disposal.

But Lieutenant-Colonel John Hart, who commands the school, stresses that dealing with terrorist devices, while it has been elevated to prominence by recent events, is only a small section of the school's work. The school is divided into

Ammunition Academy continued

five main branches dealing with training, development and co-ordination; conventional land ammunition; explosive ordnance disposal (including IED); guided weapons and administration. Courses for ATOs and ATs cover the whole range.

Ammunition technical officers have already spent six months acquiring a basic science and technology background, with specialised knowledge of explosives and the principles of ammunition, before they arrive at the school for an intensive six months of studies designed to give more detailed and practical knowledge. Other courses are held for foreign and Commonwealth ATOs and ATs though from the next school year these will be merged.

Ammunition technicians are selected from a host of volunteers from all arms.

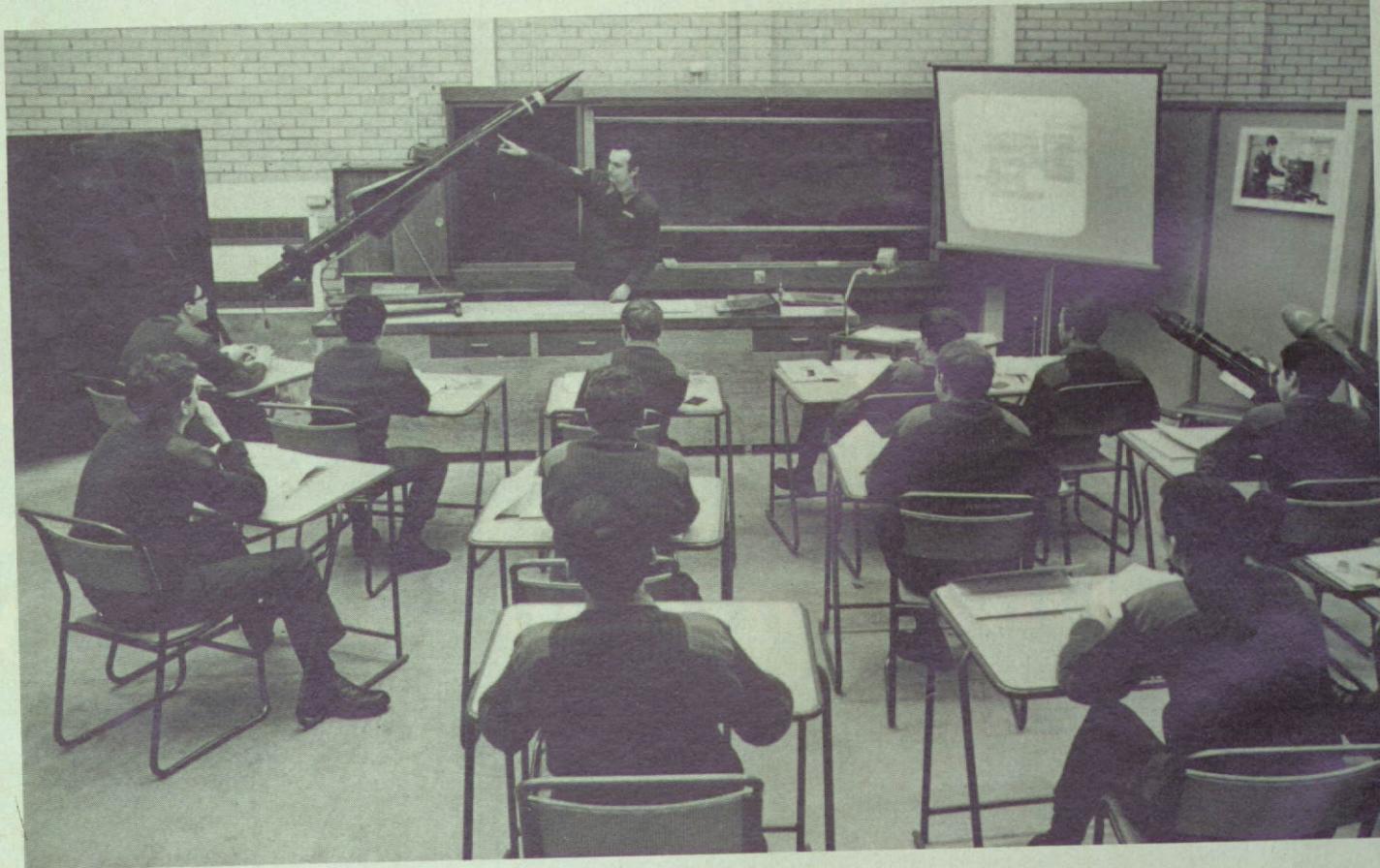
Candidates need basic educational qualifications and to be fit. After an initial sifting all who are thought to be suitable go to the school for an eight-day pre-selection course. They are taught some of the basics of ammunition and take an examination but only between 12 and 20 men are selected each year to do the full course. At the end of their year's training they go to their first job as corporals and ammunition technicians class II, returning about two years later to take another course to make them eligible for promotion by upgrading to class I.

Other courses are run for storemen on both ammunition and guided weapons although these are chiefly concerned with recognition and how to store these items. The school also holds special courses for foreign technicians from countries which have bought British missiles or weapons. So far in the 50 years of the school's existence it has trained students from 75 countries.

Down in the workshops SOLDIER found the current ammunition technicians' course. Half-way through the course the students had graduated to handling nothing but live ammunition. Their current exercise involved the repair of grenades. Working in groups, they checked that safety pins were in position, removed old detonators, saw that all markings were correct and then resealed the grenades with new detonators.

Major Steve Roach, second-in-command of the conventional land ammunition branch, told SOLDIER: "Once they come down here to the workshop everything they handle is live. Sometimes people start to shake as soon as they pick up a piece of live ammunition and this is where we find out—although we have not had a student like that for a long time. Not that there is really any hazard; these grenades have to explode when the users want them to and not at any other time."

Faults are included, particularly with



Sergeant Alan Wrotchford pointing out Rapié to class of ex-Chepstow boys.

Left: In the workshops. Students checking and repairing a batch of live grenades.

the markings, to see just how efficient and observant the students are. All this is in a special building with anti-static flooring, safety lighting and an automatic sprinkler system at the ready. You cannot take chances with live ammunition.

In the guided weapons branch Sergeant Alan Wrotchford was explaining general principles of missiles to a group of ex-apprentices from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. The short guided missile course is the final part of their training as ammunition technicians. If the apprentices pass they get two stripes immediately and double their Chepstow pay to £56 a week at only 18 or 19 years of age.

Guided weapons courses cover three phases—general principles and then surface-to-air and surface-to-surface guided missiles for those who are going to be employed on them. Lecturers can call on a large collection of parts from various missiles to put over any point. Surface-to-air teaching includes Thun-

derbird and students learn how to build up the missile and prepare it for flight.

The ASA museum used for conventional land ammunition instruction contains between 700 and 800 specimens. These range from current ammunition back to such vintage items as 68 lbs of grape shot dated 1887 and a slasher with three sword blades designed to cut through a ship's rigging or mast.

Facilities at the school are vastly different from those of its old location at Bramley. There is a lecture hall for up to 120 students with facilities for films and the school is fully equipped with closed circuit television. A popular form of instruction is a playlet with a simulated explosives accident.

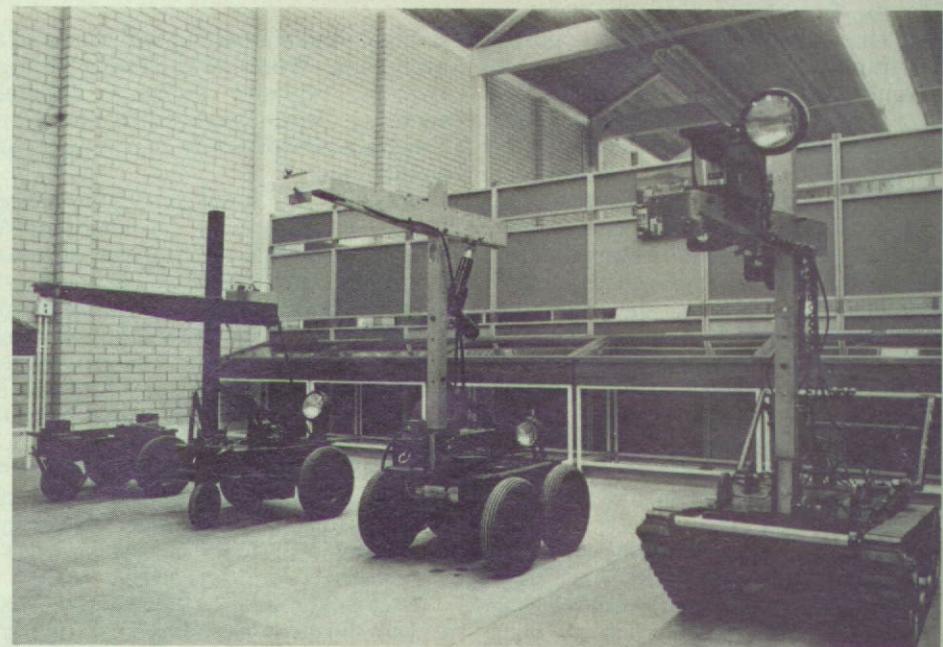
Pre-operational training in dealing with improvised explosive devices is given to teams bound for Northern Ireland and similar courses are also held for Joint Service, NATO, Commonwealth and foreign students.

Terrorist devices have become more and more sophisticated during the years of the Northern Ireland emergency and Army training in their disposal has accordingly moved ahead until it now probably leads the world. Much of the teaching concerns the use of sophisticated remote handling equipment for tackling bombs.

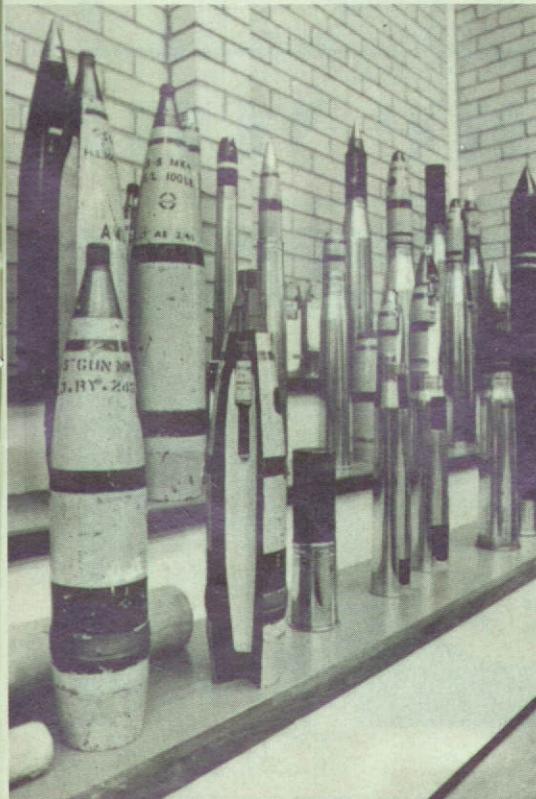
Bomb disposal men took their lives into their hands every time they approached a terrorist device—which was often designed specifically to kill them. Just how many lives have been saved by the use of robots it is hard to quantify but it must be quite a few. The robot bomb disposer known as Wheelbarrow (the popular name of Goliath is an erroneous one, experts at the school assured SOLDIER) has developed tremendously in the last few years. From early prototypes such as the Jackaroo (vintage 1971) to today's Wheelbarrow Mark VI is almost like comparing a Sopwith Camel with a Harrier.



Lieutenant-Colonel John Hart, school commandant: "Not just terrorist bombs."



How the Wheelbarrow developed—various stages in design. Below: A current version opens up a suitcase it had just blasted open and takes a look at the contents.



Left: A selection from 700 or more specimens in the school museum.

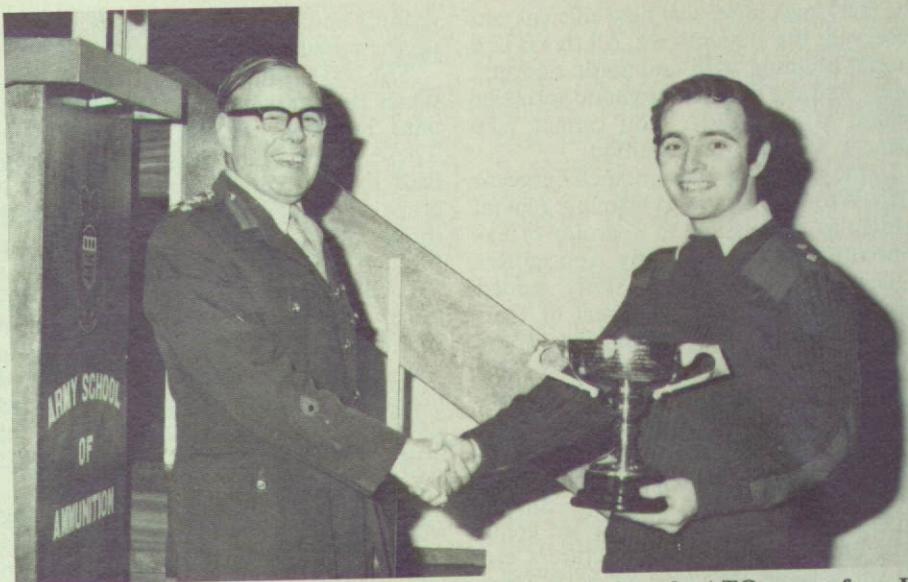
Initial training on the robot involves guiding it out of a hut, round a corner (watching on the television screen), lining up the target, which can be anything from an old tin can to a suitcase, and firing its shotgun. Wheelbarrow is now used in urban situations; in fact it is used wherever possible in order to minimise risking the life of the bomb disposal expert.

"This machine is now capable of doing anything you ask it if you have fitted the right tools," SOLDIER was told as a Wheelbarrow approached a suspect car and attached a grab connected to a rope. In a real-life situation the vehicle could then be pulled to a safer place before being dealt with.

The camp housing the school has its own demolition area which can be used for blasts including the blowing of car bombs. In addition, disused airfields and military camps are used to provide realistic backgrounds and installations for simulated bomb situations.

Students on the improvised explosive device courses also learn how to X-ray parcels and suitcases. An instructor with plenty of experience of the real thing said: "We do X-rays from behind cover because of the radiation hazard but first of all you have to approach the suspect bomb while carrying the equipment weighing 40 lbs. As you step out from your cover and walk to the device it seems a long way and it gets longer. You drag every step of the way knowing that the device could blow up as you approach it. We would only do it in a situation where you had to be sure of doing the right thing first time."

While the Northern Ireland work hogs the headlines, ammunition technical officers and ammunition technicians continue the conventional side of bomb



Lieut J Hughes receives the Aden Trophy for best student on the ATO course from Brig J Lawrence-Archer, Chief Inspector Land Service Ammunition (Picture—P Jackson).

disposal—mainly dealing with items left over from World War Two. During 1973-74, explosive ordnance disposal teams in Britain were called out 4471 times and cleared nearly 14,000 pieces of ammunition.

Basically the Royal Army Ordnance Corps is responsible for unexploded objects found on the surface, such as mortar bombs discovered in farmers' fields or on building sites. The Royal Engineers deal with items dropped from the air or below ground and too big to move. The Navy deals with deep-water objects and the Royal Air Force with items found on airfields.

Staff-Sergeant John Smith, an instructor, recalled that during his periods on disposal he had seen live cartridges on mantelselves and people using live shells as doorstops.

Staff Smith took a student through a typical situation. An unexploded mortar

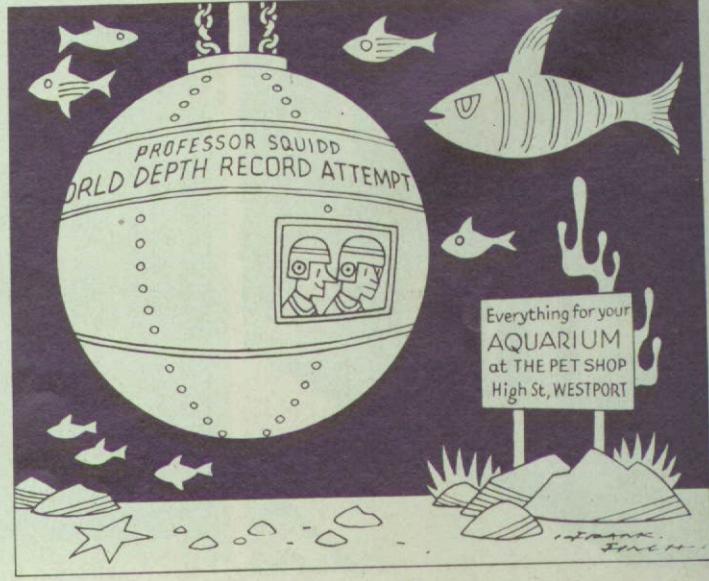
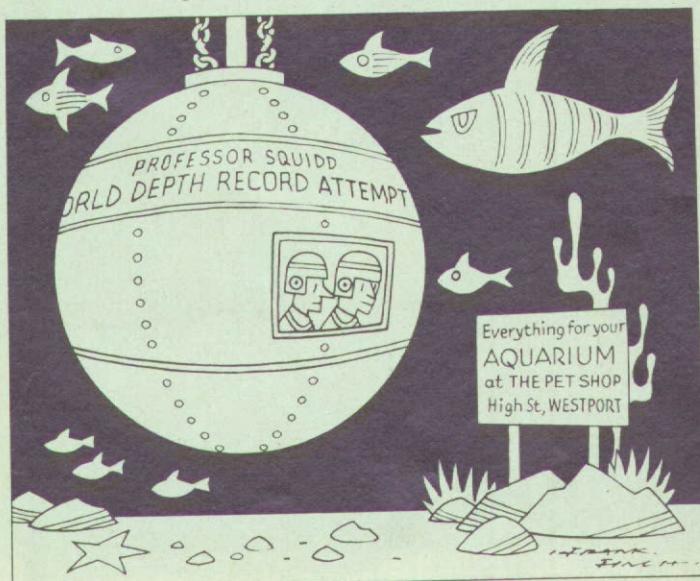
bomb is found in a field. The student gingerly clears away the mud and checks the bomb's condition. He then checks and clears the area before blowing up the bomb. Mortar fuses are notoriously sensitive, hence the bomb is blown in situ. An apparently simple process, but one repeated hundreds of times every year.

Destroying unserviceable ammunition is a large part of the ammunition technician's work and, during their training at the school, students visit remote areas where they blow up complicated stacks of ammunition of mixed nature. And it is not all bangs—the burning of propellants is also practised.

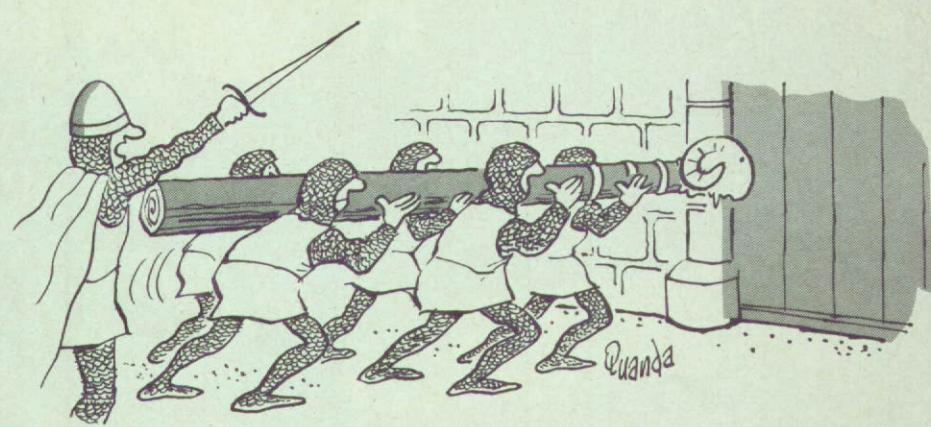
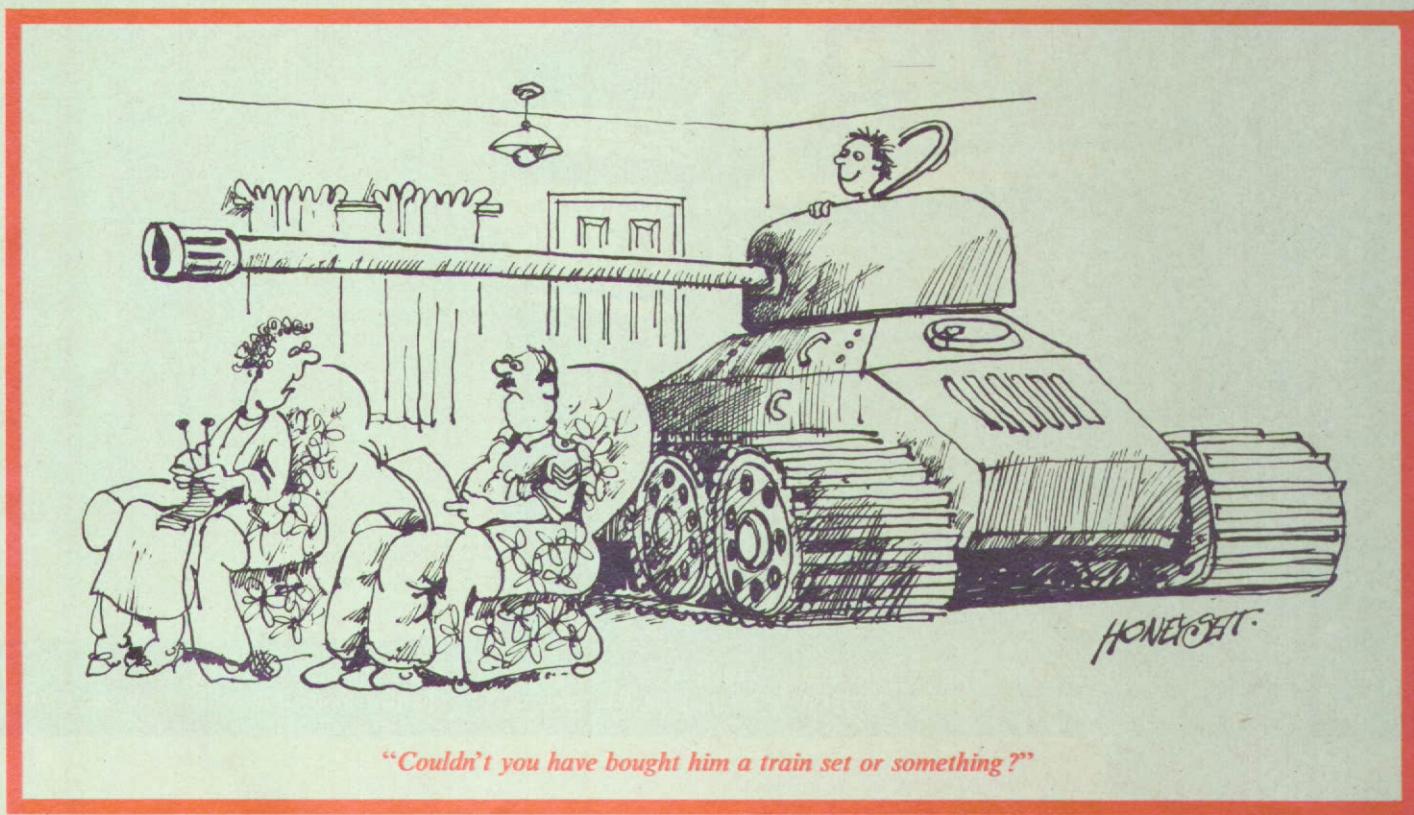
All ammunition technical officers and ammunition technicians wear the flaming bomb insignia on their sleeves. Dealing with potentially lethal situations every day, they could well call it "the flaming bomb of courage."

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 44.



Humour



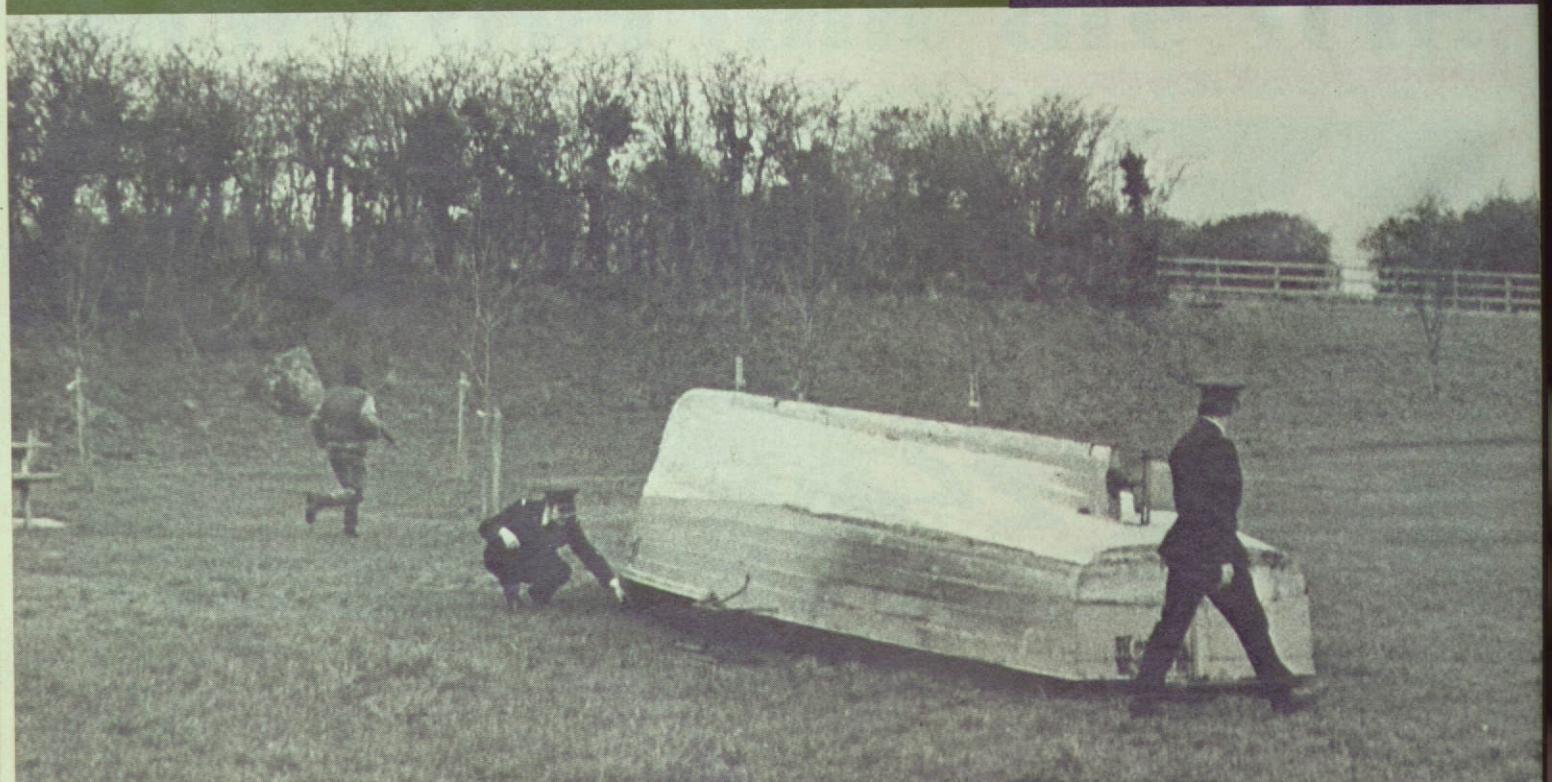
NORTHERN IRELAND



Boats in Carrickfergus harbour (above) and beside Lough Neagh (below) come under the scrutiny of the Dragoon Guards' constant peacekeeping patrols.



The cavalry has to dismount and take to shanks' pony on foot-patrol in Ulster.



Cavalry country

Story by Mike Starke / Pictures by Paul Haley

IT is a far cry from the tank ranges of Castle Martin, Wales, to the terror-torn province of Northern Ireland. But both have been on the itinerary of one cavalry unit . . . via a tour of duty in Cyprus.

Independent Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps, equipped with Ferret scout cars and at present patrolling a 1000-square-mile patch of Northern Ireland with just over 100 men, is better known as C Squadron, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, whose Chieftain tanks were practising in Wales less than a year ago.

The conversion to the recce role over, the squadron left for Cyprus to help out during the inter-communal strife last year and returned to take its turn keeping the peace between two other communities in Northern Ireland for a four-month tour. Once this is at an end, the squadron is due to revert to its armoured role with Chieftains.

The squadron is no stranger to the province, having served a previous four-month period in East Belfast with The Life Guards and having been with its own regiment from 1966 to 1969 as the resident unit in Omagh.

A large part of southern County Antrim is the squadron's responsibility and it is no coincidence that this area conforms roughly to the outline of one of the police divisions since the soldiers work side-by-side with the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the district.

One of the five troops deployed throughout the area is co-located with the police in their station at Randalstown from which the Dragoon Guards patrol both on their own and with policemen.

Said Troop Sergeant-Major R J Shepherd: "Their local knowledge is invaluable. It saves a lot of time and trouble finding out for ourselves and makes patrol work much easier."

It is from Randalstown that the little land-locked sea of Lough Neagh is kept under observation from the east. Its shores have often been used by terrorists for landing the death-dealing tools of their trade.

The other four squadron outposts are Ballyclare and Carrickfergus, working with the part-time Ulster Defence Regiment, at Aghalee with the Royal Ulster Constabulary again, and at Lisburn, the largest town in the unit's area as well as being the site of the Army's Northern Ireland Headquarters. Each troop operates four Ferret scout cars and three troops also have a Land-Rover each.

The squadron headquarters is in Alexander Barracks, next door to Aldergrove airport, and this is home for the mobile assault troop which has four Land-Rover sections on call. Mobile patrols and vehicle check points account for much of the squadron's work but there are also foot patrols to mount and full squadron searches are sometimes called for. "Eagle" patrols with RAF helicopters are a weekly duty too.

Two members of the squadron, Sergeants Bob Browne and Graham Abbs, still find time three times a week for yet another special duty. For they use their swimming instructional skills to help train handicapped children in a pool at the Muckamore Abbey Hospital—a poignant reminder that it is people who ultimately count in a conflict that has divided the province for centuries.



Handicapped children at the Muckamore Abbey Hospital get swimming training.

Soldiers patrol in the shadow of historic Carrickfergus Castle.





Below: KPM artist adds finishing touch to a commemorative plate shown above.



Auf Wiedersehen, Jock

IN front of thousands of excited Berliners the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was presented with new Colours by its Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. The presentation took place in the Deutschlandhalle, one of the largest indoor arenas in Europe.

After the traditional marching off of the old Colours and the consecration and presentation of the new, there was a massed bands pipe display in which the Borderers were joined by the military band and pipes and drums of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The King's Own Scottish Borderers were last presented with Colours 20 years ago. Princess Alice, Colonel-in-Chief for 37 years, told her regiment: "You have maintained the proud record of service that has long been the tradition among Border men in Scotland. Few units have equalled either your fighting record or the fierce pride in which you are held in the Borderland of Scotland. Now, in just two months time, you in

the 1st Battalion are to take your place again in Northern Ireland on active service—this must be with mixed feelings and my thoughts and prayers will be with you often."

Great efforts had been made to involve Berliners in the ceremony and to cement the friendships the battalion made during its two years in the city. The parade was codenamed "Auf Wiedersehen Jock" and the motif of a lone piper in silhouette alongside the Brandenburg Gate was used on posters, leaflets, record sleeves and programmes. As a result, more than 6000 Germans made their way to the hall. Militaria collectors had a field day—among items on sale were sets of postcards, a long-playing record of music played during the parade, tee shirts carrying the "Auf Wiedersehen Jock" motif, and a limited edition of hand-painted plate produced by the KPM porcelain factory in Berlin and depicting the Queen's and regimental Colours.

From a report by Public Relations HQ Berlin (British Sector).

Below: Princess Alice takes a look at a child's classroom work. Right: She bids farewell to the commanding officer and the Colonel of the Regiment.



◀ Immediately after the presentation of the Colours. The Queen's Colour is in the foreground (Lieutenant Stuart Walker).

Northern Ireland AWARDS

Awards for service in Northern Ireland between 1 August and 31 October 1974:

Commander of the Order of the British Empire: Brigadier C S Wallis-King.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel J R M Hill, Royal Engineers; Lieutenant-Colonel B J Lowe, The Light Infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel M H McLarney, The Staffordshire Regiment.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: Major P G Brooking, 5th Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards; Major R G Ding, Royal Military Police; Major P Jones, Royal Artillery; Major V H Ridley, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Captain M Seymour, Royal Tank Regiment.

Distinguished Flying Cross: Warrant Officer 2 W T Scarratt, Army Air Corps.

George Medal: Lieutenant-Colonel J M Gaff, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Lieutenant G D Allen, Bombardier D Dooley, Sergeant J McG Forteath, Bombardier W C Hatch, all Royal Artillery; Staff-Sergeant H Blinkhorn, Major C Pickard, Warrant Officer 1 T E Robinson, Captain N Wylde, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Private A Duncan, Staff-Sergeant H A F McCutcheon, both The Black Watch; Corporal G A Meredith, The Staffordshire Regiment; Sergeant P H Simpkins, Royal Tank Regiment; Corporal P S Walters, The

Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. **British Empire Medal:** Corporal R A Cockayne, Intelligence Corps; Staff-Sergeant J Hollywood, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Staff-Sergeant K Pickering, Army Physical Training Corps.

Mentioned in Despatches: Lieutenant-Colonel J N S Arthur, Captain P G E Bartholomew, both The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards; Lieutenant-Colonel R D Ashforth, Corporal K Tweddell, both The Green Howards; Corporal J D Baird, Major E N de B Broe-Ferguson, both The Black Watch; Lance-Corporal V R H Barrett, Major J R Collins, Major R S N Smith-Parr, Lieutenant M S Wakelin, all The Staffordshire Regiment; Staff-Sergeant J Cannon, Military Provost Staff Corps; Major J H Clarke, Lieutenant-Colonel M T Skinner, both Royal Artillery; Staff-Sergeant A Clint, Corporal R J Malt, Sergeant J McCorkell, Major B A Rawlings, all Royal Military Police; Major A M M Clissitt, Women's Royal Army Corps; Warrant Officer 1 R Cooper, Staff-Sergeant P Crick, Sergeant D Heath, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel S C Cooper, The Life Guards; Sergeant D W Crassweller, Royal Tank Regiment; Sergeant P D Dennehy, The Parachute Regiment; Driver J Eborall, Royal Corps of Transport; Warrant Officer 2 A B Gould, Royal Signals; Corporal M J Harris, Second-Lieutenant A C Kinnear, Sergeant J F O'Shea, Captain R G K Williamson, Corporal C S Younger, all The Royal Green Jackets; Lance-Corporal R Hawkins, Corporal J D Pape, both Royal Engineers; Corporal D C Rees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Corporal D Tindall, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.



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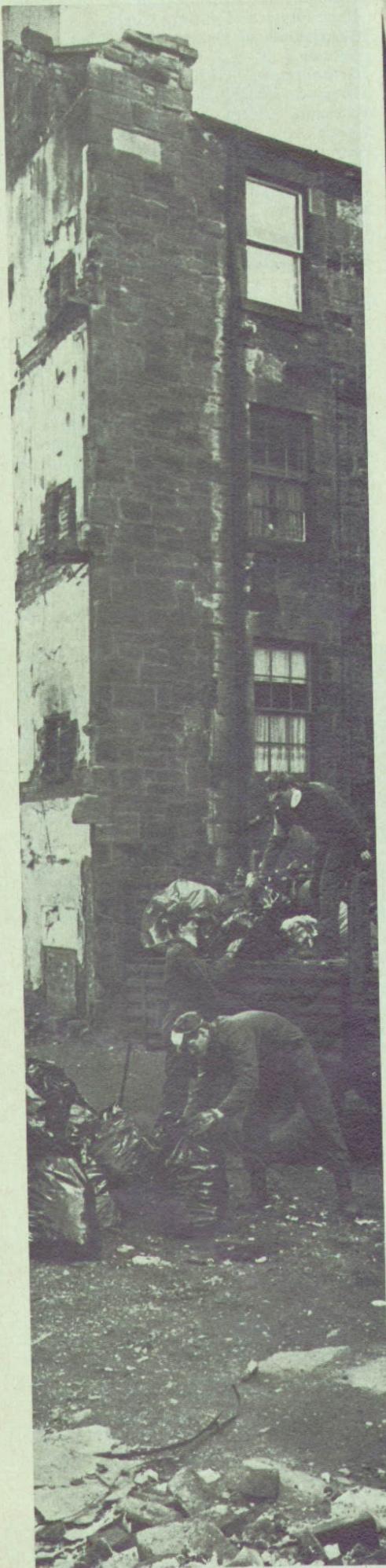
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The muckin' o' Glasgow's byre

Story by Mike Starke / Pictures by Paul Haley



THE frantic little crowd of children lost count after the 150th rat had been wheedled out of a seething pile of rotting garbage in the corner of a Glasgow tenement's back court.

As fast as the two local bin-men despatched a viciously squealing rodent and added its corpse to the ever-mounting heap, another had to be grabbed from the safety of its reeking home—the result of more than ten weeks without refuse collection in the city. And at one stage a heavily gloved hand grasped four rats by the tail before killing each in turn with a sharp blow against the blackened brickwork of the gaunt tenement block.

The only splash of colour was the lurid pink of Polythene rubbish bags mingled with black ones on the mountainous emergency tips the Army was helping to move. Local bin-men joined the troops in their gruesome task as the deadlock between Glasgow's dust cart drivers, on strike for higher pay, and the city council, entered its eleventh week.

In the middle of week ten of the strike the soldiers moved in to tackle the worst of the rubbish on the emergency dumps in an attempt to cut down the health hazard to the community.

In a dawn raid, operation Slant—as the job was inexplicably dubbed—swung into action. Some 500 men of 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, spurred on by the strains of "The Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre" from their pipes and drums, spearheaded the attack on the bags of accumulated rubbish which convoys of vehicles sped to the city's three incinerator depots at Govan, Dawesholm and Polmadie. The very first men into action were permanent staff instructors from nearby Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve units, then a company from 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, joined the fray. The battalion was later to take over from the fusiliers who left to get on with training for a tour of duty in Northern Ireland. At this stage, two companies of 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, came to Glasgow too.

In the grey light of that dawn the task force's job of protecting health looked hopeless as its first assaults yielded only some 500 tons a day of rubbish against the city's disgorgement of roughly 1000 tons a day—and a ten-week backlog of some 70,000 tons.

But reinforcements soon arrived to

WORK ON THE MAMMOTH TASK OF SHIFTING THE RUBBISH...



Local help for soldiers clearing rubbish.



Pranksters set a city centre dump alight.



Politics before people preached by some.



A convoy of loaded vehicles moves off to the incinerator.

Left: A masked soldier feeds rubbish into an incinerator.

Right: A tenement back court yields a grisly bag of rats.



stiffen the attack. They included the Bulford-based 65 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, reinforced by a troop of 47 Air Despatch Squadron from Lyneham, sappers from 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon, with elements of 36 Regiment from Maidstone and men of 22 and 39 regiments at Tidworth and Waterbeach. The sappers provided heavy plant to load lorries rapidly for the journey to the incinerators.

Two ad hoc transport squadrons were gathered to swell the pool of drivers. Under the wing of 156 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve), 185 men from a large number of units became Sword Squadron—named after the sword appearing on the North West District badge.

The second squadron was assembled in Scotland and also included drivers from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Gunners from 4 and 12 regiments, Royal Artillery, journeyed from Catterick and Kirton Lindsey to help out. With 65 Squadron came its own Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop and these technicians were backed by a platoon from 9 Field Workshop to keep

the fleet of some 300 vehicles on the road in top condition.

The task force swelled to some 1400 by the eleventh week of the strike and well over 2000 tons of rubbish a day were being dealt with as the soldiers quickly mastered their new and grisly trade after less than a week of experience. The bin brigade was streamlined into small three and four-man "patrols" to give an even quicker rate of collection and at one stage the vast electrically fired incinerators found it hard to cope with the pressure.

The men of 65 Squadron increased efficiency by building up the sides of four-ton lorries with heavy wire mesh. It had been found that the bulky but lightweight loads had filled lorries with only about a ton at a time. The mesh adaptation allowed some three-and-a-half tons to be carried.

Each day started and finished with a journey of some 50 miles as most of the troops were accommodated in Edinburgh. Some Glasgow-born soldiers stayed in their own homes and reported for work each day. And while the striking drivers failed to get the £5 a week extra they demanded, the soldiers were awarded a

50 pence a day bonus as "dirt" money by the Ministry of Defence.

The health of the Glaswegians was the concern of the soldiers; the health of the soldiers was the concern of two medical officers and 3rd Division Field Hygiene Team, drafted in to keep a watch on the situation. The medics took the opportunity to study in the fast-breeding rat population the prevalence of leptospirosis, a form of jaundice which can be transmitted to man from rats.

As a grateful community looked on, the troops' efforts gathered momentum. As in Belfast, cups of tea and cakes were offered from doorsteps to soldiers on the street. Were there any other comparisons between the bombed and battered face of Northern Ireland and the age-scarred streets of Glasgow? "This is much worse," a soldier said. "I've just come back from a tour in the New Lodge area of Belfast and I've seen nothing as bad as this."

He had traded the bombs and bullets of Belfast for the tenement battleground of Glasgow where the enemy was disease and its shock troops the ever-increasing armies of rats thriving on mounds of rubbish.

The reading room where the grand old ladies can relax with their newspapers.

ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS

They followed the drum

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Paul Haley

ON the door of every room is the name of a regiment or corps. Inside lives a gallant band of old ladies—all widows of British soldiers spending their twilight years as comrades in a unique building at East Molesey, Surrey—the Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows.

The Cambridge Home began life in 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, and was opened for the first widows three years later. It was erected in memory of the Duke of Cambridge, son of George III. Its original title has a Dickensian ring—"The Cambridge Asylum for Widows of NCOs and Privates of Her Majesty's Land Forces."



In 1944 the building at Norbiton Park, Kingston, was hit by a bomb and two widows were killed. Two years later the home moved to its present site by the River Thames. Today the home has 28 widows aged from 68 to 97. Its income comes mainly from the Army Benevolent Fund but also from regiments and units, individuals and other Service charities.

Generally speaking, the ladies are required to be widows of Regulars although some are of wartime soldiers. To be eligible they must be in good health on entry as the Cambridge is not a nursing home and the old ladies are encouraged to be as independent as possible. Of course there is a sick bay

5

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time for admission but in recent years this has dwindled and Miss Margaret Bennett, the secretary and superintendent, admits that today a small waiting list would be a good thing.

Miss Bennett, a former Women's Royal Army Corps captain, is retiring shortly after 23 years working at the Cambridge Home. "I have enjoyed it," she says. "There is never a dull moment here. They say old people are depressing, but they are not—aggravating perhaps, but not depressing."

Each of the widows has her own room and facilities for cooking a snack or making a pot of tea. Main meals are taken in a communal dining hall. There

are two lounges with television—one colour and one black-and-white. With the traditionalism of the old, many widows prefer to watch their programmes in black-and-white. Youngest inhabitant is Peter, a six-year-old budgie belonging to Mrs Ellen Spicer. A confirmed chatterbox, he is the only pet in the home.

For the soldiers' widows it is a comfortable life with few rules and regulations. Those who are fit enough are free to go out shopping or to visit friends and relations. Every Christmas and Easter a group of Chelsea pensioners comes down to the home for a party and the widows join the pensioners on their seaside outings. "We have often wondered



Left: The late Duke of Gloucester, who was president of the home, pays a visit. The home has its own little chapel.



Sapper widow writes at her desk in her own comfortable and smart room.

if there would be a real romance—but no," reports Miss Bennett. "They are all too comfortably off where they are."

Pictures of the widows around the turn of the century show stern-faced ladies dressed in black. A reporter who interviewed some of them at that time found women who had been to the Crimean battlefield as well as trekking all over India with their husbands.

Today's widows have not suffered quite such hardship, but they have seen the world and as 84-year-old Mrs Ellen Lawrence, widow of a regimental quartermaster-sergeant in the old 17th Lancers, put it: "It's been a lovely life and I am very happy and comfortable here."

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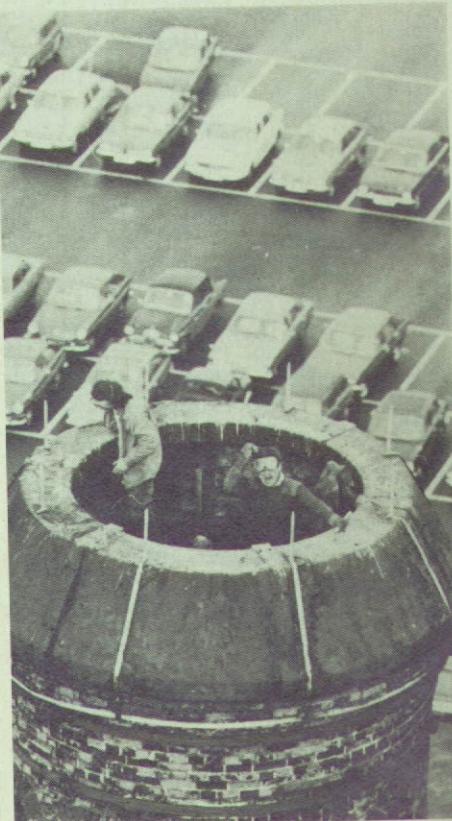
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Purely Personal



Welbexian first

Welbeck, the Army college housed in the Duke of Portland's country seat in Nottinghamshire, has just produced its first lieutenant-colonel. He is 36-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Davies, Royal Signals, who has just started an appointment at the Staff College, Camberley. He went to Welbeck in 1954, the year after it opened, and was commissioned in 1958. He was recently brigade major of 20th Armoured Brigade in Germany.

Up and down

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve Sergeant Mike Edmunds has been working full-time for the Army—in his civilian role as demolition expert. For Mike, a member of 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was contracted to demolish one of Aldershot's military landmarks, the 70-plus-year-old electricity power station's massive 148-foot chimney pictured here with Mike to the right of its 13-foot diameter metal top.



O'Dea, O'Dea, O'Dea, O'Dea...

While 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, was training at Lydd in Kent the fourth brother in the O'Dea family joined the regiment. Malcolm O'Dea, aged 16, is now training as a junior soldier at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe. His eldest brother, aged 31, is Company Sergeant-Major Michael O'Dea, followed by two sergeants, Barry (27) and Kevin (26). Picture shows Michael putting his younger brothers through their paces. Malcolm is due to join the battalion this autumn.



Coming up!

On the same Catterick parade at which 19-year-old Peter Ormond passed out as a fully-fledged signalman, his father, Warrant Officer 1 Eric Ormond, also Royal Signals, received the Meritorious Service Medal. Young Peter helped out with the ceremony—he carried Dad's medal, on a red velvet pad, to the inspecting officer, Brigadier Peter Baldwin, Commander 2nd Signal Group, who made the presentation.

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PERSONAL EXPORT



SOLDIER

NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER May 1975

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

"We have to recognise that our imperial or international policing is over," said the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Roy Mason, as he unveiled the White Paper on defence estimates to the world's Press. Although foreshadowed to a great extent by Mr Mason's statement last December (SOLDIER News, February), the White Paper spelled out in greater detail how the Government plans to save £4,700,000,000 on defence in the next ten years by cuts, withdrawals and redundancies, including an estimated 6000 officers and soldiers from the Army.

Of these, Mr Mason declared: "I intend to give them a square deal." He outlined two examples of redundancy payments, both based on current pay rates and scheduled to be increased according to future service pay and pension rises. A warrant officer class 2 with 19 years' service made redundant at age 37 will receive a pension of £936 a year plus a terminal gratuity of £2808 and a special tax-free lump sum of £3288. A major in the infantry with ten years in the rank and 21 years' reckonable service at age 42 will get a pension of £1582, a terminal grant of £4747 and a tax-free payment of £7252, related to 1974 rates. In broad terms the Government has decided to concentrate British effort in areas where it believes Britain can make the most significant contribution to her security and that of NATO. It judges these to be the Central Region and the Eastern Atlantic and Channel areas.

In the Central Region, where NATO is heavily and increasingly outnumbered in fighting divisions, in manpower, in fighting units and in all the major weapons systems, Rhine Army and RAF Germany play a major part in forward defence. For this reason an Army of 55,000 and a tactical air force on the mainland of Europe will be maintained—making no reductions in advance of mutual and balanced force reductions.

UK JATFOR abandoned

Substantial changes in specialist reinforcement forces are detailed. No 41 Commando Group, at present in Malta, will be gradually run down from 1977 to 1979 when it will be disbanded upon the withdrawal of British forces from the island. The Royal Marine brigade headquarters, three commandos with associated helicopters and Army support will remain declared to NATO and one commando and the helicopter squadron will continue to be specially trained and equipped for Arctic and mountain warfare.

The United Kingdom Joint Airborne Task Force is to be abandoned although The Parachute Regiment will remain. The United Kingdom Mobile Force will be reduced by 1979 to an airportable formation equivalent to a reinforced brigade group but with a limited parachute capability, an improved level of support and the same air element, less a squadron of Andovers. This smaller force will be provided for deployment to the central and northern regions of NATO.

Britain will continue to maintain forces in Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Belize and the Falkland Islands. In Hong Kong there will be some reductions in both servicemen and locally enlisted personnel and a large share of the cost will be sought from the Colony's government when the present agreement expires next year. The consultative commitment to Malaysia and Singapore will remain but with a small exception all forces will be withdrawn by next April. The United Kingdom will be a member of the South East Asia Treaty Organisation but will take part in fewer exercises in future.

In Brunei the Labour Government has revived its 1968 decision, cancelled by the Conservatives, to withdraw the Gurkha battalion—subject to consultation with the Sultan. Mr Mason said this was not a cost-saving exercise as the Sultan paid, but the proposals were in keeping with the general plan of pulling back Britain's overstretched forces. The Sultan wanted the Gurkhas to stay and consultations were continuing.

As Oman was fighting against a professionally organised and externally supported rebellion in an area of great economic importance to Britain, the Government did not think it right to make any change in the arrangements with the Sultan of Oman.

In Cyprus, early reductions are proposed. Britain will remain a member of CENTO but will no longer declare any forces to this organisation.

Fewer formation headquarters

A major restructuring is to take place in the Army. Under this the brigade level of command will be eliminated within NATO and there will be closer integration between the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve and the Regular Army with the

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

Continued

TAVR used more for reinforcing Rhine Army. Main aim of the restructuring is to maintain as far as possible the present combat capability while reducing the overall number of men by 15,000. On the pending redundancies Mr Mason said a circular would be sent to local authorities asking them to give priority to servicemen returning to their home areas and seeking accommodation.

Units will in future be commanded directly by smaller-sized divisional headquarters. The span of command will be increased at both formation and unit level with the result that there will be fewer formation headquarters and fewer but larger units. Unit structures will be simplified by concentrating specialist functions, such as reconnaissance, into one arm, but the manning of front-line equipments will not be impaired.

United Kingdom Land Forces will be maintained virtually as at present but economies will be made by giving selected district headquarters the responsibility at present exercised by the field force formation headquarters. The TAVR is being maintained at its present size and TAVR units will be included alongside Regular units as part of the new district organisation.

The proposals will enable the Army to retain all existing regimental identities in the Royal Armoured Corps and infantry and to man broadly the same equipments in the Royal Artillery, but with some reductions in the total number of regiments in line with the policy of new, larger regiments with more guns. It is similarly hoped to reduce regiments of other arms and corps, such as the Royal Engineers, without significant loss of operational capacity.

Within five years the Army will have dropped from its present strength of 180,000, including 7000 Gurkhas, to 165,000 with only 6000 Gurkhas. Of the 6000 anticipated redundancies about a quarter are expected to be officers, mainly those between 40 and 50 years old in 1980, although some in the 30 to 40 age bracket may be included. Soldier redundancy will mainly affect warrant officers and non-commissioned officers with more than ten years' service. First announcement will be made in December and the first officers and men will leave in October 1976.

Despite the obvious reduction in "Join the Army and See-the-World" appeal, the White Paper says the armed forces will continue to need men and women of the highest calibre, will not relax their recruiting effort and will continue to provide full and worthwhile careers for all those who join.

Equipment

On Army equipment the White Paper says reductions will affect a wide range of items. Savings will be effected by a mixture of reductions in numbers, postponements and cancellations covering ammunition and mines, bridging equipment, fighting and transport vehicles, guided weapons and electronics. Major



Vixen-cancelled.

measures already announced (SOLDIER News, February) were withdrawal from the RS 80 long-range artillery project with Italy and West Germany; cancellation of the Vixen wheeled reconnaissance vehicle; reductions in the planned purchase of Anglo-French light helicopters; and reductions in the follow-up orders for Sultan, Spartan and Samaritan (all members of the Anglo-Belgian combat vehicle reconnaissance family).

Some 12 Royal Air Force stations are to be abandoned including the Battle of Britain station, Biggin Hill. Mr Mason said the Army might want to take over some of these stations to replace some of its present huttied accommodation. Improvements in Army equipment which have been recently introduced, or are planned for the current financial year, are listed in the defence review. Armoured reconnaissance units in Britain, Rhine Army and Hong Kong have all received the Scorpion tracked reconnaissance vehicle; the Scimitar tracked

reconnaissance vehicle with the Rarden 30mm gun will begin to enter service this year. The Spartan armoured personnel carrier and the Striker, a tracked vehicle carrying Swingfire anti-tank missiles, will begin to enter service in 1976. The Fox wheeled light reconnaissance vehicle will also begin to enter service this year and bridgelaying version of Chieftain is now entering service while an armoured recovery version will start to replace Centurions this year.

In the artillery field the 105mm light gun will begin to replace the 105mm pack-howitzer during 1975 and over a slightly longer period the Lance tactical nuclear missile system will be purchased from the United States to replace Honest John. The Rapier low-level air defence missile system is currently being introduced and first deliveries of Blowpipe man-portable missile system are due to take place this year. The infantry's anti-armour capability is being improved. Swingfire mounted on an armoured carrier is now coming into service with mechanised battalions and the lightweight optical sight for infantry weapons (SUIT) has been delivered to units. The ability of the infantry to operate at night will be improved by further issues to combat units of the individual weapon sight and by the introduction of a night observation device during the year.

Army combat forces will receive further issues of the anti-tank bar mine while the Anglo-French Gazelle light helicopter is replacing the Sioux in service. The new Clansman range of combat net radios will begin to enter service with training units during the year.

A new ground surveillance radar (ZB 298) has entered service with armoured reconnaissance and artillery regiments while Cymbeline, a lightweight mortar-locating radar, has been introduced into service with artillery regiments to replace Green Archer.

A modern system for providing meteorological data for artillery and other users has been introduced and this will provide first-salvo effectiveness. In addition, detection of nuclear fall-out will be improved by new equipment to monitor radiation. A new overgarment, and improved equipment for detecting chemical agents, will be introduced to give better protection against chemical attack.

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● The number of members of the armed forces admitted to hospital during 1974 was about 50,700, Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, told Mr Bryan Davies (Labour, Enfield North).

● Mr Stan Newens (Labour and Co-operative, Harlow) got a dampening reply when he asked what research had been initiated by the Ministry of Defence to study the creation of artificial rain as a weapon for use against a potential enemy on the basis of experience gained by the Americans in Vietnam. Mr Brynmor



"Now we're not going to let a drop of rain worry us are we?"

John, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Air Force, said no such research had been conducted. He added: "Studies of the physical processes which produce rain do not suggest that additional rain can be produced in sufficient quantity or with sufficient reliability to have any significant effect on military operations."

● There had been 167 awards, under the Criminal Injuries to Persons (Compensation) Act (Northern Ireland), to dependants of servicemen killed through terrorist activity in Northern Ireland, Mr Robert C Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, told Mr James Wellbeloved (Labour, Erith & Crayford). A total of £795,050 had been paid in compensation.

● Replacements for both the 120-millimetre recoilless rifle and the Carl Gustav in the infantry anti-tank role were both under consideration, Mr Rodgers told Mr Julian Critchley, who sits for the Army's home town of Aldershot. A decision on a medium-range equipment to replace the 120mm recoilless rifle was likely to

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT continued

be made shortly while the Carl Gustav would remain in service for some time yet. ● Mr Brown told Mr Charles Morrison (Conservative, Devizes) that the estimated savings on the amalgamation of the Tidworth Army Hospital and the Wroughton RAF Hospital should not be less than £750,000. He said the combined hospital would need substantially fewer staff and there would be further savings in works maintenance and other running costs, offset to some extent by increased transport costs. Final details could not be worked out until the studies on residual medical facilities to be retained at Tidworth were complete.

● Mr Bryan Davies asked what was the cost to the public purse in 1974 of the education of servicemen's children in private schools. Mr Brown said the estimated cost during the current year for children in boarding schools was £16,730,000. He continued: "The purpose of education allowance is to help Service personnel, who are liable to frequent changes of station, to maintain continuity of education for their children either by sending them to a boarding school or by placing them in the care of a relative or guardian to attend a day school."

● Liberal Leader Mr Jeremy Thorpe wanted to know if the Secretary of State for Defence would seek to amend the regulations restricting the percentage of Army pensions that could be commuted at the end of a 25-year Service engagement so that the commutation could be put on a more flexible basis. Mr Brown: "No. Servicemen have greater opportunities than other public servants to commute pensions, and I cannot hold out any hope of these opportunities being enlarged."

● Just under 7500 members of the forces were drawing rebates under the forces' rent and rebates scheme, Mr Rodgers told Mr James Johnson (Labour, Kingston-upon-Hull West). Mr Johnson said he was shocked by this but Mr Rodgers did not find it shocking—"it is wrong that anyone should feel there is indignity involved in getting a rebate. The figures show that servicemen do not live in a privileged position."

● While the British Government shared the humanitarian concern underlying a United Nations resolution on the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons in armed conflict, it had not supported the resolution, Mr David Ennals, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told Mr F Hooley (Labour, Sheffield Heeley). Mr Ennals said the Government did not believe the resolution and another one on the same subject would help to achieve the objective of the international community making practical progress towards effective controls on these and other "weapons which may cause unnecessary suffering in armed conflict."

● Major-General K Perkins has been seconded to the Sultanate of Oman to serve as commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces in succession to Major-General Tim Creasey, Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, told Mr Stan Newens (Labour and Co-operative, Harlow). In reply to a further question from Mr Newens, the Minister said detachments of the Army and Royal Air Force were stationed at Salalah but it was not the usual practice to give details of deployments of this kind. In addition about 175 British personnel were serving on loan with the Sultan of Oman's forces.

HELP WANTED

Princess Margaret is to open the 22nd world conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at the University of Sussex on 23 June. Two camps for British Guides and Rangers are being held in Sussex at the same time so that the delegates can see the British way of Guiding. The Girl Guides Association is seeking help from wives and families of servicemen for the Guide and Brownie units which exist on most family stations. It is not necessary for helpers to have had previous experience or to make a definite commitment to come into uniform or take responsibility for running a unit. Further information is obtainable from local town halls, reference libraries or citizens advice bureaux or overseas from station welfare officers.

BOYS TO MEN

Among ex-boy soldiers who joined the Army as apprentice tradesmen or junior soldiers are now serving two major-generals, a brigadier, 34 colonels or lieutenant-colonels and 292 majors or captains. More than 2200 are warrant officers and 7985 are staff-sergeants or sergeants.

OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

The number of ex-officers assisted during 1973-74 fell from 584 to 528, says the annual report of the Officers' Association. The report attributes the fall to deaths of World War One veterans now in their seventies and eighties. The number of widows and dependants helped also fell—from 748 to 706.



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The American soldier of the Revolution 1775 is another addition to the 54mm Collectors Series.

These soldiers who fought under the command of George Washington wore many variations of dress and although he tried to achieve some uniformity by issuing dress regulation orders, due to desperate shortages, he never achieved this aim. The uniform and equipment continued to vary among Washington's troops.

This Airfix figure represents an infantryman clad in one of the styles adopted by the patriots after the declaration of war in 1775.

There are several alternatives when modelling this kit. The figure can be an NCO carrying the spontoon or a standard bearer or an infantryman carrying the musket, tomahawk or sword.

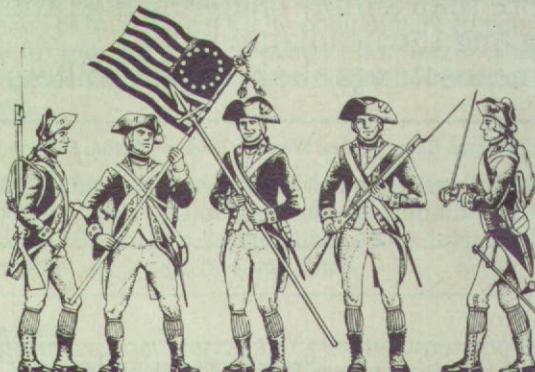
The pack has a full painting guide and there is a template to be used for cutting the

belts and straps of the uniform from the plastic sheet provided.

The fine details of the musket, water bottle, ammunition pouch, back pack and uniform have all been authentically reproduced in this 21 part kit.



New to the world's biggest range
of construction kits.



Military MODELS

IT was a still moonlit desert night. In their roofed dugout tactical headquarters some Afrika Korps officers were drinking with their divisional commander. Suddenly there was a crash like a thunderclap and the soda siphon smashed to the floor. The general looked through the observation slit at a horizon lit by gun flashes. The date was 23 October 1942; the place, El Alamein...

Four hundred 25-pounders and 600 other artillery pieces—about one gun for every ten yards of enemy front—turned the Axis position into a seething hell of explosions, smoke and stinging, flying sand. It was the initial stage of five hours of shelling, one of the few large and prolonged barrages of World War Two.

The deadly 25-pounder was used in concentration on every allied front: North Africa, Italy, France, Burma, Malaya, the Low Countries and the Rhineland. Although it was the practice to dig in the gun or cover it with camouflage netting, experienced detachments could put it into action in an emergency from the march in about 45 seconds. So dexterous became the hand-loading that some German prisoners-of-war taken in Normandy specially asked to see this "belt-fed" gun.

More than 12,000 were produced in all. The 25-pounder performed sterling ser-



Sterling 25-pounder

vice with the Regular Army until the late 1960s and even today is still used for training by the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve.

This legendary weapon is the subject of 1:35th scale plastic kits recently released by the Japanese firm of Tamiya. It comes as a basic kit with limber and six figures at £1.50 and with a Quad gun tractor at £2.85. The Quad tractor is also

available separately for £1.75. These kits are marketed by Richard Kohnstam ("Riko") Limited of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

The gun kit is intricately detailed right down to the distinctive rivets on the carriage. One criticism is that the turn-table firing platform has to be fixed in either the firing or transporting position. It is attached to the carriage by only a fragile plastic peg which does not make for removability.

The bulky looking Quad had the appropriate acronym FAT (field artillery tractor). Although first developed to tow the 18- and 25-pounders and their limbers, it was used post-war by police forces in many parts of the world for riot control. The most detailed parts—V8 engine, transmission and leaf springs—are hidden away beneath the model. However, there is a wealth of transfer decals for British and Canadian armies.

Care should be taken when fitting the windows in this model. The best method is to hold the transparent plastic in place and then run the cement along the edge with a cocktail stick. Basic colours for the Quad tractor are Humbrol Eighth Army desert yellow, or matt olive drab or dark green for the Europe. A final thin coat of matt polyurethane varnish gives an authentic semi-matt finish. **HH**

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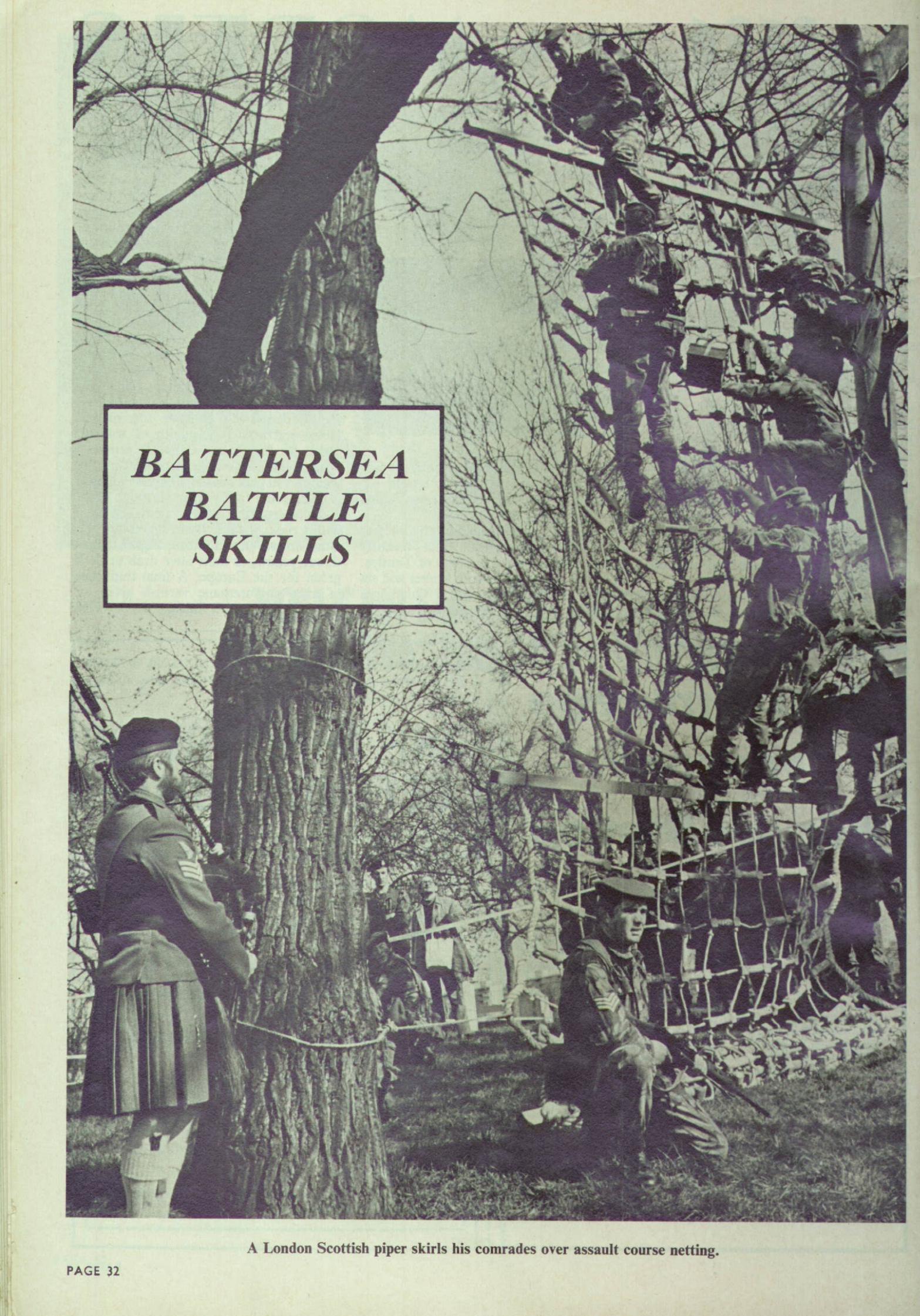
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BATTERSEA BATTLE SKILLS

A London Scottish piper skirls his comrades over assault course netting.



This team got a running start at the beginning of the obstacle course.

NINE men from 562 Parachute Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, held off the challenge of 13 other teams of part-time soldiers from the Greater London area to win this year's Courage Trophy competition.

The annual event, organised by the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve of the capital, in conjunction with Courage Brewers Co Ltd, was held in Battersea Park. Teams had to negotiate an obstacle course containing five individual hazards and a team obstacle while carrying two

jerricans of water, cooking equipment and personal arms.

A driving test with Land-Rovers over a difficult course followed and finally the teams had to set up a camouflaged rest area, set out sentries, erect three bivouacs and cook a quick mid-day meal.

Runners-up in the competition were 131 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, followed by G (London Scottish) Company, 51st Highland Volunteers, who had been spurred on by their own piper. Prizes were presented by a brewery director.

Back-seat drivers worry with their expert on the tricky driving test.



Mid-air Zorba's dance as the sappers try a hazard on the obstacle course.



Cooking a meal was all part of the test.



The leader of the winning team receives the Courage Trophy at the day's end.

Anyone for bobbing?

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Paul Haley



IN the Italian Alps, at the skiing resort of Cervinia and within spitting distance of the towering Matterhorn, two young Army lieutenants in their first season pulled off an impressive eighth place in the first-ever international military bobsleigh championships.

Lieutenant Graeme Lamb, Queen's Own Highlanders, and Lieutenant Tony Norton, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, failed by only a fraction of a second over four runs down the treacherous Cervinia track to break the bobbing monopoly of the Alpine nations—Italy, France and Switzerland—who filled the first seven places.

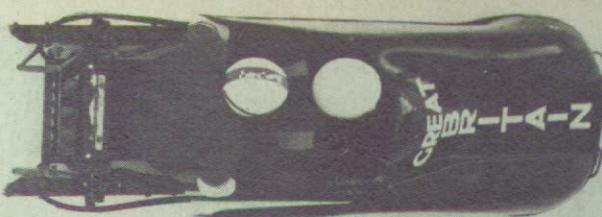
Nevertheless their achievement, and that of the two other British pairs from the Navy and Royal Marines, who came 9th and 12th out of the 18 finalists, already has them being spoken of as potential Olympic contenders for 1980.

The international military championships followed immediately on from the world championships at Cervinia. In those, four Welsh corporals from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Corporals J Price, G Sweet, B Sweet and D Lloyd, finished eleventh and have been described by the sports pundits as arguably the best four-man bob team Britain has ever produced. Most of the bobbers in the world championships left Cervinia before the military event although France, Italy and Belgium included men who had been taking part the previous week.

Britain fielded four two-man bobs during the military event's five practice days. Great Britain I (the numbers reflected positions in the British championships in February) comprised Leading Aircrewman Colin Rimmer (23) of RNAS and Colour-Sergeant Tony Higgins, a burly physical training instructor from 41 Commando Group, Royal Marines; GB II was an all-Royal Marine bob driven by Captain Roger Spiers of 41 Commando Group with Colour-Sergeant Bob Beers from the Special Boat Company, Poole, as brakeman. In the third British bob were two sailors, Petty Officer David Thomas (24) and Lieutenant Richard Potez (25). The Lamb-Norton Army bob was listed as GB IV but ended ahead of the other three.

The Royal Air Force was represented by Flight-Lieutenant Roger Potter (29) from Andover who acted as brakeman for Australia's entry driven by Flight-Lieutenant Bill Tink, Royal Australian Air Force.

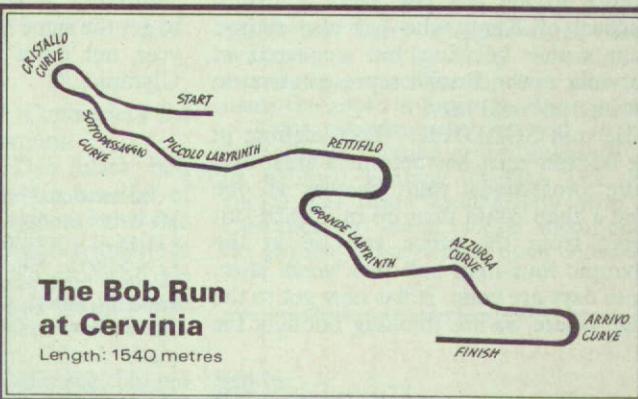
It was on the second practice day that the Australians became the first casualties of the military championships. Turning on to its side in the Grande Labyrinth, the bob careered along the track as far as the Azzurra curve before Tink and Potter



Graeme Lamb (left) tells Navy bobbers how his bob was damaged in practice.

A map of the Cervinia run which is rated by many as better than St Moritz.

How it's done. Below, GBI (Rimmer and Higgins) and (far left) the Army bob, thunder down the course.



The Bob Run at Cervinia

Length: 1540 metres



Belgian bob careers on its side towards Arrivo curve. The brakeman was injured.

The international military bobsleigh championships at Cervinia were organised under the auspices of CISM (International Council of Military Sports). This organisation at present comprises the armed forces of 58 countries with a fur-

ther 29 invitations to join still pending. During the last quarter of a century CISM has organised 335 international military championships in various sports involving 37,000 military athletes before more than five million spectators.

was thrown out and injured his leg. Amazingly the bob righted itself on the final Arrivo curve, which had seen several near misses itself, and driver Claude Oliviers was able to coast home.

Bobbing is no sport for softies. It requires guts, fitness and above all tremendous mental and physical co-ordination. Guiding the heavy metal bobsleigh at ever-increasing speeds along a near-mile-long course requires a type of man who has still to be exactly quantified. Athletes have been tried, pilots have been tried, but there have been just as many successes as failures in every case.

Graeme Lamb (the Italians called him Giacomo in the preliminary programmes) is quiet and boyish-looking but the cool, professional attitude shown by him and his partner, Tony Norton, in their first few weeks of serious bobbing has indicated a great future for them. Lieutenant Lamb says that the secret of being a good driver at speeds which may be as high as 90 miles an hour is for the mind to be at least one if not two curves ahead of the bob. A wrong line at any one point is likely to have repercussions all the way down the course.

Colin Rimmer clocked in practice the fastest British time of the military championships and achieved this without consciously steering the bob at all. He adds: "If you come round a corner and look for the lines of those who have gone before you will get a slow time—you are trying to beat them, not equal them."

Colin feels that to be successful a



PAGE 35

bobber has to be "a little bit crazy." Tony Higgins, who combines the right attributes of a brakeman—strength and speed—says it takes three good seasons to really get to know the sport. Here Britain will always be at a disadvantage for in Switzerland, Italy and France, competitors can bob every weekend.

To spectators the bob run looks horrifying. But the men who take part say that actually making a run is completely different. Colin Rimmer says: "If you don't respect the course it is a dangerous game but it is not as frightening as it appears. When you do it, things seem to be completely under control and in slow motion."

The brakeman's main task is at the start and the finish. In between he just sits tight. Bob Beers, a Royal Marine commando who is always looking for new thrills, enjoyed his first season. "For some reason I have always had a hatred of riding pillion on a motorcycle. Yet although this is a similar sort of thing I don't have the same feeling at all."

Non-participating team captain Major Malcolm Cavan, also of the Royal Marines, retired from active bobbing last season. He says that while the days when bobsledding was a sport for rich playboys have gone, the servicemen who take part still find themselves well out of pocket. "None of our money comes from public funds," he stresses. "The money for the bobs (costing more than £1000 for a two-man bob) comes from regimental funds and private donors."

The British team paid for its own travel and accommodation at the most basic level possible—at one stage this winter its members slept seven to a room. For the military championships the Italian hosts waived track fees and the three final crews from each country were sponsored for their accommodation.



Snow flies into the air as brakeman applies the brakes at the end of the course.

The Navy are comparative newcomers to the sport and the inter-Service championship until three or four years ago was a strictly Army—Royal Air Force affair. But now all three Services are taking the sport seriously and next year a four-man bob representing all three Services may enter the world championships.

One person who has noticed a big difference in the last few years is Prince Michael of Kent, who has also retired from active bobbing but appeared at Cervinia as the British representative on the international jury.

He told *SOLDIER*: "Bobsledding in the last ten years has become a great deal more professional and whereas at one time a chap could turn up in a track suit direct from the office and be in the Olympic four-man bob two weeks later, those days are gone. It has now got to the stage where we are thinking bobbing for

more than the two months a year when the tracks are open."

The hunt is still on for more servicemen to take up bobsledding as a sport. Members of this year's team, on return to their units, are being asked to act as talent scouts for 1975-76.

Says Prince Michael: "We want people of the right physique and mentality. Also continuity is very important. We need to get the same crews together year in and year out on a four-year cycle between Olympics."

International military championship results:
1st Italy I (4 mins 55.37 secs), 2nd Switzerland I (4.55.41), 3rd France II (4.55.59), 4th France I (4.55.91), 8th Great Britain IV (Lamb/Norton) (4.58.92), 9th Great Britain I (Rimmer/Higgins) (4.59.49), 12th Great Britain II (Spiers/Beers) (5.00.50).



Classic pose from the British team. Back row (left to right): Tony Norton, Richard Potez, Malcolm Cavan (team manager), Tony Higgins, Bob Beers. Front row (l to r): Graeme Lamb, David Thomas, Colin Rimmer, Roger Spiers.



Picture by Gerhard Medoch (PR)

Four Welsh corporals from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, who have been earmarked as Britain's No 1 four-man bob team for next year's Winter Olympics, finished 11th in the world championships at Cervinia. Later they were placed 15th in the Nations Cup at Igls, Austria. Picture shows (left to right) Graham Sweet, Jacky Price (seated), Bill Sweet and Malcolm Lloyd.

Sport

EUROPEAN KARATE HAT-TRICK

PRIVATE Eugene Wooding (21), of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, has won the European karate title for the third year running. The three-match tussle for the title took place in the United States in conjunction with the world championships which Eugene hopes to enter next year.

The European title-holder's decisive defence was won by three points to one. He said: "I thought it was hard, but other people told me afterwards it



Karate king Wooding.

looked a decisive win." Contenders for his title came from 15 nations.

Eugene is a fourth Dan black belt karate expert—one of only a handful of people in the United Kingdom with this high a grade. His championship quality is the result of 14 years' dedication to his sport, five of which were spent in Japan before he joined the Army two years ago.

As a junior, he became British champion and went on to gain the United Kingdom senior title. He came out on top in a five-nation match in the United States between the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the USA and was a winner in the Canadian national championships.

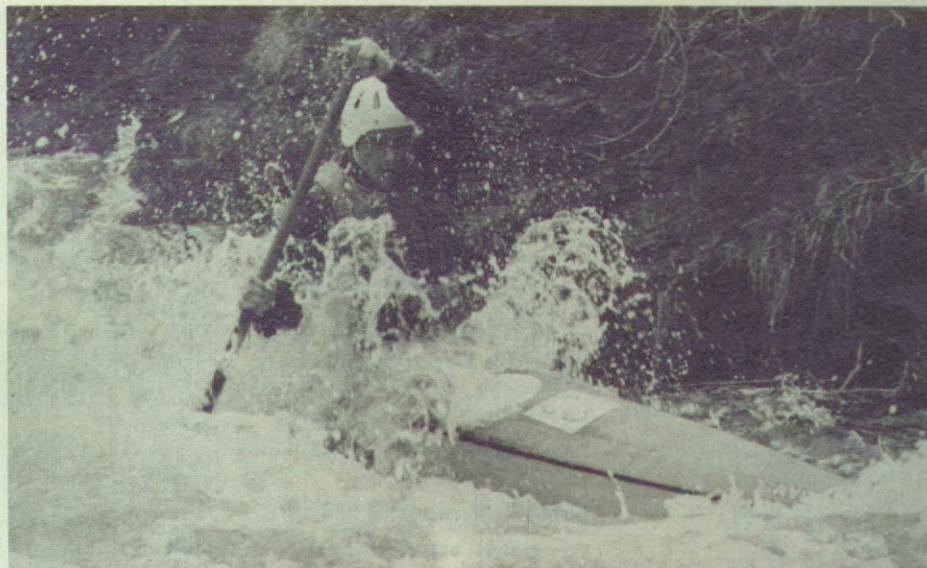
Dukes' try counts

THE one and only try of the afternoon gave 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, a lead which spurred them to a 12-6 victory against 3 Base Ammunition and Petroleum Depot in the Army rugby cup final.

The Rhine Army Champions, 3 BAPD, were leading by two penalty goals to one when the try was made after being set up by Cuss, the Army fullback, who went on to convert it well. He added a second penalty goal to ensure the Dukes' victory.

The win was especially welcome for the Dukes' lock, Sergeant D Dickens, who thus added a sixth winner's medal to his trophy collection covering ten years of playing in the Dukes' rugby side.

Minor units champions are 1 Para Logistic Regiment who beat Royal Engineers, Rattigen, 21-9.



Sergeant Bill White taming wild water.

Army trio paddles to International status

FOLLOWING consistent success throughout the winter season, and particularly in the recent Jaffa wild water racing championships, three members of the Army Canoe Union have won selection for the British international team for this year.

Sergeant Bill White, Staff-Sergeant Instructor Ken Dyer and Staff-Sergeant Instructor Terry Hewitt—three names synonymous with Army canoeing in recent years—are the top trio who have made the grade to represent their country.

Team selection was assessed on performance at training group weekends and in national ranking events. The final choice was made immediately after the championship event which incorporated the British Canoe Union open contest.

Terry Hewitt and partner Jim Sibley of Windsor Canoe Club were unable to compete in the individual C2 event because of damage caused during their winning run in the team event. But such is their dominance in this class that the selectors had no hesitation in nominating them for the international team.

Bill White and Ken Dyer turned in outstanding results in the championship event, finishing 1st and 3rd respectively in the individual C1 class event and, with Jon Goodwin, gaining 1st place in the men's C1 class team event.

The team is managed by Stan Cooper and all members are now preparing for a full international season leading up to the world championships to be held in Skopje, Yugoslavia, in June.

Soldier-sailors win Victory Trophy

A TEAM from the Army Sailing Association scored a decisive win in the Civil Service Sports Association's inter-Services team dinghy championships for the Victory Trophy to wrest the title from the RAF who had held it for the last six years.

The Army team, led by Olympic helmsman Major Stuart Jardine, won three of the six matches and ended with a score of 451. Wins in two matches put the RAF second with 55 and the Navy came third with 64½. The CSSA trailed fourth behind the Services.

A cold force four northerly wind blew throughout the first two matches with only a brief glimpse of the sun. But next day the wind moderated to force three in the morning and by the end of the last afternoon race was down to force two.

Throughout the weekend the Army team gave a first-class display of team tactics and won all but one of the 12 races outright—the exception was a dead heat with the RAF. Sailing in Major Jardine's team were Warrant Officer "Dusty" Miller, Captain Nick Ross, Sergeant Dave Ellis, Captain Ian Bye and Staff-Sergeant Jess Knight.



Air Corps' first major title

THE Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop, has won its first major Army sports title by beating 19 Field Workshop (Elec) 60 points to 59 in the final of the major units senior basketball championship.

The Fuller Trophy went to the captain of the winning team, Sergeant Ian MacKay, whose average score during the tournament was 25.6 points per game. The coach, Warrant Officer 1 Ken Milne, saw a lifetime's ambition realised when his team carried off the trophy. He said after the

continued ▶

Ottowell (LI), Lieut P J Underwood (RE), Navy 5; Epée: Army 3 (Lieut Sutherland, 2 Lieut P A Wall (RE), 2 Lieut M Mullis (DERRR), Navy 6; Sabre: Maj J A Moore (RA), Maj Bell, Army 5 (Capt G W Gelder (APTC)), Navy 4.

SQUASH

Winners of the SOLDIER Magazine cup for the inter-unit championship are HQ BAOR who beat HQ 16 Para Brigade 3-2. The UK finalists had beaten School of Infantry and the BAOR champions had beaten HQ 1 (BR) Corps in their own finals.

The Army A team drew with TAVR. Results:—Capt I C McKay-Dick beat C Boote 9-5, 3-9, 9-6, 9-3; Lieut D Armstrong beat C Wand-Tetley 10-8, 3-9, 9-2, 10-8; Sgt C Heavyside lost to J Duff 2-9, 0-9, 5-9; Capt B Treadwell lost to S Thomas 9-5, 2-9, 5-9, 2-9; Lieut N Coombe beat A Oates 9-6, 7-9, 9-3, 10-8.

The Army A team lost 3-2 to Veterans. Results:—Capt McKay-Dick beat D Bourne 10-8, 9-1, 9-1; Maj T P Toyne-Sewell lost to H McKinosh 1-9, 4-9, 3-9; Maj-Gen G Burch lost to D Howell 9-1, 1-9, 9-6, 2-9, 3-9; Brig E J Hillier lost to R Stephens 3-9, 9-5, 8-10, 7-9; Lieut-Col H R Wright beat J Moon 9-3, 9-4, 9-10, 9-5.

JUDO

Two Army apprentices from Chepstow gained high placings in the English junior open judo championship in a day-long tournament which attracted more than 700 competitors. A/T Young gained a bronze medal in the Espoir under-65kg class and, as a member of the victorious The Rest team, received a gold medal for beating Western Area. A/T Ripley reached 5th place in the Espoir over-65kg class. A marginal points defeat in his last bout put him out of the running for the semi-final.

Results of the Army judo championships (winners and runners-up):

Inter-unit team championship: Jnr Ldrs Regt RA, 40 Fd Regt RA.

Individual events—Special Kyu under 11 stones: L/Cpl R Murphy (1 Trg Regt RE), Gnr M Roycroft (2 Fd Regt RA). Special Kyu over 11 stones: L/Cpl L Beckford (RPC Trg Centre), Pte I Mitchell (1 Para). Lightweight: Sgt R Alexander (REME QRIH), SI G Bryson (APTC RMAS). Welterweight: Bdr W Connor (2 Rgt AAC), SI J McKenzie (APTC RAMC Trg Centre). Middleweight: Sgt D Lyons (40 Fd Regt RA), Bdr S Harrison (Jnr Ldrs Regt RA). Light heavyweight: (L/Cpl S Travis (RPC Trg Centre), Gnr C Arnold (2 Rgt AAC). Heavyweight: Sgt S Browning (Depot Para), Cpl M Coles (R Sigs). Open event: L/Cpl S Travis, Sgt D Lyons. Mitchell Trophy for best losing performance: Cpl M Coles. Army UK v BAOR, five wins each; BAOR won on points 50-47. Results of Army (UK) seniors judo championships: Inter-unit team, first semi-final:

RPC Trg Centre beat RMAS 4-1; second semi-final: Jnr Ldr Regt RA beat 35 Central Wksp REME 3-2. Final: Jnr Ldrs Regt RA beat RPC Trg Centre 3-2.

Individual events—Special Kyu Class B (heavy): L/Cpl L Beckford beat Spr I Gowler (1 Trg Regt RE). Special Kyu Class A (light): L/Cpl R Murphy beat Bdr A Brown (Jun Ldrs Regt RA). Heavyweight: Sgt S Browning beat Cpl A Joels (16 Para Bde Pro Unit). Light heavyweight: L/Cpl Travis beat Cpl C Millings (2 Para). Middleweight: Bdr S Harrison beat L/Cpl M Williams (1 Trg Regt RE). Welterweight: SI J McKenzie beat Sgt M Harrison (Jun Ldrs Regt RA). Lightweight: SI G Bryson beat S/Sgt P Hull (35 Central Wksp REME). Open class: L/Cpl S Travis beat L/Cpl M Williams.

An Army team from these competitors was beaten by a British Police team 7-3.

British Judo Association Southern Area defeated Combined Services Judo Association: A Team match 1: CSJA 2 BJASA 7 (one draw); match 2: CSJA 3 BJASA 6 (one draw); B Team match 1: CSJA 1 BJASA 9; match 2: CSJA 1 BJASA 9.

RIDING

Wintery conditions prevented a full programme of equestrian events at Hickstead over the Easter weekend. But the sole surviving contest—a gruelling cross-country course over 24 farmyard hedges, fences and ditches—provided exciting sport in which two Army teams shone. After several teams withdrew, unable to cope with the difficulties of the course, the first five to get round, despite a few falls, were from King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. The one-and-a-half-mile trip took them some 11 minutes to complete. But soon more teams followed and times dropped. Finally a team of top showjumpers won with a Royal Artillery Team a mere ten seconds behind in second place.

BASKETBALL

Army 76, United States Navy Y of B 65; Army 99, Slough 65; Army 54, Middlesex League Select 78.

GYMNASTICS

Army junior soldiers gymnastic and trampoline championships results:—

Individual: 1st A/T G Jones (AAC Chepstow) (69.20 points), 2nd J/Dvr M Sheriff (JLR RCT) (58.60), 3rd J/Cpl G Fidler (JLR RE) (57.70). Inter-unit team: 1st AAC Chepstow A (224.75), 2nd JLR RCT A (208.95), 3rd JLR RE (202.75). Rings competition: 1st A/T Jones, 2nd A/T Newton (AAC Chepstow), 3rd A/T R Drean (AAC Chepstow). Pommels: 1st A/T Jones, 2nd J/Cpl Fidler, 3rd A/T Drean. Rings and pommels: 1st A/T Jones, 2nd J/Cpl Fidler, 3rd A/T Drean. Individual trampoline: 1st J/L/Cpl D Bryan (Jun Para Coy), 2nd J/Spr D McGee (JLR RE), 3rd J/Dvr T Wood (Depot Queen's Div). Inter-unit team trampoline: 1st JLR RE, 2nd Jun Para Coy, 3rd AAC Arborfield.

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A model of the Cranleigh School compact car which won the BP Buildacar contest last year has been presented to the headmaster of the school as a lasting memento of the win. It was made by 41 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, York. REME organised the finals of the contest at Bordon, Hampshire, last autumn.



There was an unusual addition to the programme at the Army Air Corps Centre's wings parade at Middle Wallop when the inspecting officer, Major-General Bob Lyon, Director Royal Artillery, presented the Army Air Corps with a 25-pounder gun to commemorate the close association between the gunners and the AAC and its predecessor, the air observation post squadrons.

Left, right and centre



Exceptional snowfalls recently created problems—in the sunshine isle of Cyprus! A snow-clearing detachment provided by 62 (NE) Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, had to keep the roads clear in and around the British forces' leave centre in the Troodos mountains. Equipped with graders, bulldozers and a Bedford four-tonner fitted with a snow-clearance blade, the sappers stayed up in the mountains for the duration of the snow season—and some took the opportunity to learn to ski.

GENUINE SURPLUS

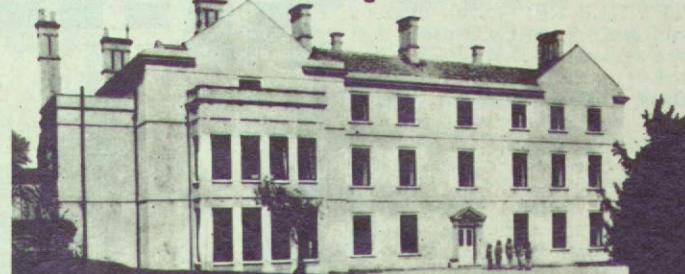
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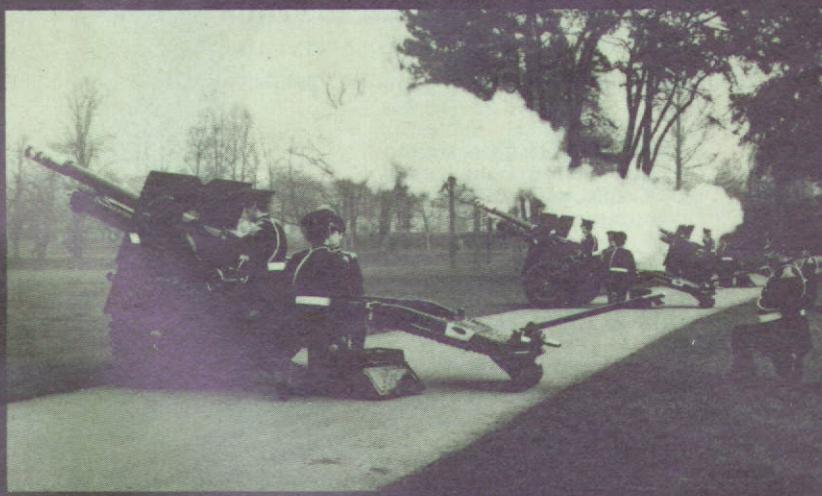
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Ex-servicemen from Leicester, all of whom served in Scottish regiments, pipe their way alongside Townsend Thoresen's car ferry, Free Enterprise IV, at Dover. The Scots, 22 of them, were on their way to Mauberge for France's annual naval parade, Anciens Marins. It was the first time since 1918 that British Colours had been trooped in Mauberge.



Cadets of the Gwent Army Cadet Force joined Territorial Army Volunteer Reservists of 211 (South Wales) Light Air Defence Battery, Royal Artillery (Volunteers), at the firing of a royal salute in Bute Park, Cardiff, to mark the commemoration of the accession to the throne of the Queen in 1952.



A brand-new car for £420 was the do-it-yourself success story of Sergeant M V Woolard who built a new fibreglass body for that sum on the chassis of an old Triumph Vitesse he had bought. A new fibreglass floor was bolted to the chassis and a mock-up body constructed in plywood, cardboard, plaster of paris and body filler. The original metal bulkhead and windscreen were retained. Three layers of one-and-a-half ounce chopped strand mat were used. The whole job took a total of six months to complete over a two-year period.



In a short ceremony at Woolwich, the Royal Artillery received into service 20 new Greaves Griffen Desert motorcycles for use by the famed motorcycle display team that tours the country to advertise the gunners. The new machines have to be tough to put up with the breathtaking stunts their showmen/riders hurl them through during displays.

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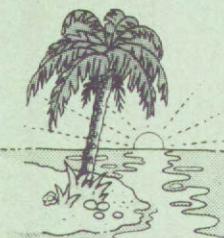


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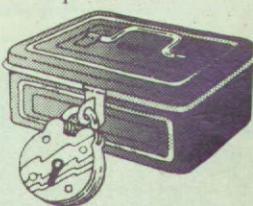
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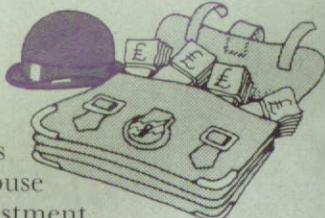


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Letters

Back to Normandy

Following the enormous success of our D-Day tour last year (see *SOLDIER*, August) we are organising a Normandy Break-Out Tour 1975 to visit Normandy from 27 July to 8 August inclusive. Starting from Southampton, we will travel via Cherbourg, St Mère Eglise, Carentan, St Lô, Coutances, Granville, Avranches, Mortain, Domfront, Flers, Argentan, Falaise, Caen, Pegasus Bridge, Rouen, Dieppe, Le Havre and back to Southampton. We are in fact covering the areas in which operations Cobra, Totalize and Goodwood took place. As last year, we will travel in

restored allied military vehicles built between 1939-45. At present we have 72 entries but are expecting a total of 120. The French authorities are working hard to make us welcome, particularly the ex-servicemen travelling with us. We have limited space available on some of the vehicles for ex-servicemen or members of HM Forces who would like to make this journey—full of nostalgic moments—and I would be pleased to hear from anyone interested.—Peter Gray, Secretary, Military Vehicle Conservation Group, 15 Tarring Road, Worthing, Sussex.



By auction

An OR black leather helmet of the King's Own Norfolk Imperial Yeomanry was sold for £160 at auction by Wallis & Wallis of Lewes, Sussex. It was complete with the brass badge bearing the crowned cypher of King Edward VII, yellow shredded whalebone plume and brass chin chain.

At the same auction, £75 was realised for a Victorian officer's busby of the 20th Hussars. Sold together with red bag, bullion lines, gimp oval cockade, yellow feather plume and gilt chin scales, it had its original lining. It came in a japanned tin case with a brass plaque engraved E D F Kelly 7 (QO) Hussars.

A French 3rd Empire military standard was sold by the same firm at another auction for £360. The standard, measuring 31 by 31 inches, bore the legend "L'Empereur des Français au 130e Régiment de Ligne". Within a wreath at each corner was the numeral 130. The fabric of red, white and blue had gilt fringed edges with a tied bow at the top hoist corner. A Victorian officer's full dress bullion embroidered sabretache of the 7th Hussars realised £100 and a military side drum of The Hampshire Regiment, with battle honours up to World War One, sold for £50.

A rare pattern-1796 Household Cavalry trooper's sword, with plain SE blade, stamped on the backstrap "Josh H Reddel," was sold for £210; a basket-hilted dragoon sword circa 1775 realised £115; and a French An XI Cuirassier broadsword engraved "Klingenthal Novembre 1811" fetched £100.

New Association

We have recently formed the World-Wide Airborne Association. Membership is open to airborne troops of all nations and our aim is a common bond of friendship between past and present members of airborne and gliderborne formations. Membership in UK is £1.00; \$3 (US) for other countries. Upon receipt of application a membership card is issued and members will receive an association letter published three times a year. I will be happy to send details of the association to prospective members.—Wilf Edwards, 5 Mildmay Road, Norris Green, Liverpool, 11 7BE.

Staff units

Certain staff units under the control of the Adjutant-General's and Quartermaster-General's departments were raised during the Peninsular War. These new units were, I believe, the Royal Staff Corps, Staff Corps of Cavalry and Corps of Mounted Staff Guides. Can any reader give me any information about these units, their formation, disbandment and uniform? Were the Staff Dragoons and the Mounted Staff Guides two separate units or were these two different titles for the same body of men?—R A Hamilton, 142 Jubilee Drive, Kensington Fields, Liverpool, L7 8SW.

Wyvern Arms

From where the royal arms at Wyvern Barracks (Wessex Wind Up, *SOLDIER*, February) came I cannot say. They can, however, be dated to within 15 to 16 years in the reign of King George III. In 1801 the royal arms were remastered and the arms of France removed. With the addition of an escutcheon of the electoral arms of Hanover, the royal arms became as they are today. The escutcheon, a smaller



think the coat of arms was above the gates immediately facing the brewery. There was an RFA or cavalry unit in occupation at the time.

I imagine that the coat of arms found its way to the UK via the Black and Tans in 1920. I hope this information fits into the jigsaw.—H M Evans, 8 Amos Court, Banbury, Oxon.

Over to you

I am gathering illustrative material for a volume on the Indian Army and am seeking such things as warrants, commissions, posters, unpublished photographs of clubs, field installations and special equipment as well as supply and administrative forms, efficiency reports and anything else to give a strong feel of the colour and texture of the period. I will arrange permission and royalties where appropriate.

—Roger A Beaumont, Associate Professor, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas 77843, USA.

LS & GC Bar

In *Purely Personal* (January) you printed an article on the award of a bar to the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal to WO2 Awty, The Green Howards. Can you please confirm that the article was correct and if so, what is the authority for the issue of the bar to the LS & GC Medal. No one I have spoken to appears to have heard of it.—S/Sgt S A Morden, 50 Falkland Road, Catterick Camp, North Yorkshire, DL9 4DZ.

★ The award of the clasp to the LS & GC Medal is dealt with in para 1060(d) of Queen's Regulations for the Army 1961 which says in effect that a WO, NCO, man or woman who completes a second period of 18 years' ap-



New Covers

Stamp Publicity, 1 High Street, Worthing, Sussex, is issuing a new series of commemorative covers featuring six regiments—The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Artillery, 4th (The Queen's Own) Hussars, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, The Royal Green Jackets and the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers. Each cover depicts in

colour a regimental historical scene and the regimental badge. Previously, similar covers have used special postmarking to commemorate the issue—the new series bears a stamp appropriate to the regiment. The majority are cancelled in overseas territories. Inside each cover is a printed card with details of the scene.

more Letters

proved service in the ranks, reckoned from the qualifying date for the award of the LS & GC Medal, shall, subject to conduct being irreproachable and being recommended by his CO, be awarded a clasp. The award is denoted by the wearing on the ribbon of a silver rose emblem, but only when the medal itself is not worn. About 24 clasps are awarded annually.

Calling badge buffs

Many readers may be unaware that there are societies catering for those interested in badge collecting. The Military Heraldry Society welcomes collectors, particularly those interested in cloth badges. Anyone interested is invited to write to me.—T Sampson, Hon Sec, Military Heraldry Society, 47 North Road, Bristol, BS6 5AD.

Sea trooping

I am collecting information, hopefully for eventual publication, on sea trooping between the end of World War One and 1962. There may be older readers who have interesting personal recollections of some of the ships. I am compiling "builder to breaker" histories and would be glad to hear any stories, amusing or whatever, or to receive any information or illustrative material about the ships involved and

life aboard them. Any help would be most gratefully received.—Martin W Young, Kent School, Hostert, BFPO 40.

Ring a bell?

I think I can clear up the mystery of the bell referred to by Sergeant Duffey (Letters, March). The bell was acquired at the time when the "doodlebug" flew over Sussex. I was then serving in 24 Searchlight Regiment RA, of which 336 SL Battery was a part, and billeted in a large house in Blackboys.

We thought it necessary to have some warning when there was danger so the bell was taken down from the building and a sentry posted to ring it when the engine of the doodlebug cut out. The villagers around Blackboys will no doubt remember the warnings the bell gave as at one time they volunteered to take their turn at the bell, saying that when it rang they also received the warning.

We moved to Haywards Heath shortly after the raids but did not take the bell with us. Incidentally there was no inscription on it at that time. The reason for the white horse on the bell is because we were originally 20th Battalion, County of London Regiment, and were affiliated to The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.—Ex-Sgt E Sawyer, 7 Windsor Road, Gillingham, Kent.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 16)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Lines on second fish at top left, 2 Rivet below window, 3 Position of fish above notice board, 4 Lower fin of lowest fish, 5 Bottom right point of starfish, 6 Letter "g" in "High", 7 Mouth of left navigator, 8 Shape of large rock on right, 9 Lines on rock at far left, 10 Plant stem below bottom right edge of notice board.

REUNIONS

Notices of corps and regimental reunions should be sent to Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, at least two months before the event is due to take place. No charge is made for announcements.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. Annual reunion dinner, Surrey Tavern, Kennington Oval, London, 3 May. Tickets from Maj (Retd) G Allsop, Home HQ, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Territorial House, Sundorne Rd, Shrewsbury, Salop.

The Queen's Own Hussars. Reunion dinner, Tavistock Banqueting Rooms, Charing Cross Road, London, 3 May. Details from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), Home HQ, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.
15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association. Annual reunion dinner, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 17 May. Details from Secretary, Home HQ, 15/19 H, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4NP.

Armourers Reunion. Royal Green Jackets Drill Hall, 56 Davies Street, Mayfair, London W1, 17 May. Details from Maj (Retd) M G Chetwynd, 52 Copheap Rise, Warminster, Wilts.

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Association (Carabiniers & Greys). Annual dinner, Victory Club, Marble Arch, 3 May. Tickets from P O'Rourke, 17, Elm Grove South, Barnham, Sussex, PO22 0EJ.

Royal Military Police Association. Reunion dinner RMP Training Centre, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex, 17 May. Limited male accommodation available. Details from Secretary RHQ/RMP, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester.

The Royal Hussars. Sixth annual reunion dinner, Barkers Penthouse Restaurant, Kensington, 3 May. Wives and family friends welcome. Tickets from Home HQ, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester, Hants.

The Middlesex Regiment. Service of remembrance, St Paul's Cathedral, 2.30 pm, 17 May. Annual reunion Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, 7 pm, 17 May. Details from Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion and dinner, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester, 13 September. Details from Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.

Royal Pioneer Corps Association. Corps weekend and annual general meeting, RPC Training Centre, Simpson Barracks, Wootton, Northampton, 13-15 June.

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Details from Secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE or Corps Secretary, Simpson Barracks, Wootton.

COMPETITION

A clue to Competition 199 (January) (Just the job) lay in the postscript to Mr Tudent's letter of application—"my last letter." Taking the last letter of each word in his application, the words English, history, geography, French, German and maths appear. Mr Swott could offer only English, maths, woodwork and music, therefore Mr Tudent had two more O levels than Mr Swott.

Prizewinners:

- 1 P Austin, 80 Harmsworth Crescent, Hove 4, Sussex.
- 2 CPO D White, RN Careers Office, 18 Milton Road, Swindon, Wilts.
- 3 WO1 J E Goodall, 13 Sig Regt, BFPO 40.
- 4 Capt M G Fossey RE, Roberts Hall, RMCS Shivenham, Swindon, Wilts, SN6 8LA.
- 5 Sgt W T Griffin, 10 Int & Sy Coy, BFPO 1.
- 6 Maj R G Reed, Islington Farmhouse, Alton, Hants, GU34 4PN.
- 7 WO1 (Cdr) N J Bridle, 3 BAPD RAOC, BFPO 40.
- 8 Douglas Jewsbury, 6 Charles Street, Inverness.
- 9 P J Hogg, 11A Merrion Avenue, North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex.
- 10 A D Calvert, Plas Owain, Harlech, Gwynedd, LL46 2UA.



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Collectors' Corner

Capt A J Saunders, HQ Mess, R Sigs, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8RH.—Wishes purchase or exchange British or foreign medals and decorations.

R A Simkin, 94 Holly Street, Nelson, Lancs.—Wishes obtain SAS and para berets, cap badges, cloth badges, buttons and leg knife. Has for exchange mil buttons, badges, Boer war, WWI and WW2 campaign medals, WW2 steel helmet and forage cap.

Col D E Thornton, Pentre Gwilym, Thornhill Road, Cardiff, CF4 5UA.—Requires SOLDIER Vol 3, issues 3-10 inclusive and No 12, and Vol 4 issue No 1.

S A Wright, 103 Station Road, Teynham, Sittingbourne, Kent.—Seeks arm flashes 2nd, 3rd, 15th Para battalions and SAS badge and beret.

Arnold J Ferreira, 3041 North Second Street, Fresno, California 93703, USA.—Has for sale quantity

mint condition metal enamelled replicas of cloth shoulder/sleeve patches also variety regimental and battalion distinctive insignia. All correspondence answered.

Richard Yetman, 285 Saskatchewan Boulevard, Site 10, CFB Borden, Ontario, LOMICO, Canada.—Seeks cap and collar badges, metal shoulder titles and buttons Sherwood Foresters and Worcestershire Regiment. Has Canadian cap badges/insignia for exchange.

R Gorringe, 99 Highbury Grove, Clapham, Bedford, MK41 6DX.—Has British and Canadian Army cap badges for sale or exchange. Send large SAE.

A M Kelly, 120 Lethamhill Road, Riddrie, Glasgow, G33 2SJ.—Wishes purchase Nazi daggers and Scottish dirks. Has other military items for exchange.

J R Harrington, Seven Oaks Lane, Brewster, NY 10509, USA.—Seeks medals and militaria relating to



Ethiopia, Eritrea, Italian East Africa, East African campaigns of WWI and WW2, 3/KAR; also miniature bars to British war medal for Königsberg and German East Africa. Robert P Haun, 515 Runnymede Avenue, Jenkintown, Pa 19046, USA.—Wishes purchase Indian cavalry trooper's sword, 1908 pattern, in good condition. State price.

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On record

"Marching and Swinging" (Eastern Command Band, Australian Military Forces) (Conducted by Captain T P Wahlin) (Columbia SOEX 10017)

This Australian band traces its origins to the New South Wales Artillery of 1874, so this disc was made in 1973, its 99th year of chequered history. Starting as a military band whose members were primarily gunners, it changed to brass only, then back to brass and reed in 1964. Thus it can be said to be only in its tenth year. Very good too, with some fine players lurking among a preponderance of brass.

If only there wasn't an apparent lethargy in the final result I could go along with this band as the equal of any of our own corps bands. As it is I have to say the conductor is guilty of forty minutes of under-tempo music with hardly a sparkle to relieve the gloom, it lacking spirit, verve, bounce, or that indefinable "lift."

Eric Coates's sprightly "Dam Busters" march almost grinds to a halt in several places and side one continues with light "classics"—a ghost from the dim past resurrected in "A Tisket a Tasket," a tune from "Jesus Christ, Superstar" (coyly masquerading as "Superstar Gethsemane"), "St Louis Blues," "The Hot Canary," Bert Kaempfert's "Swinging Safari," and Charles Shadwell's march "Down with the Curtain."

Side two is devoted to marches and marching songs—"Colonel Bogey on Parade," Holzmann's old "Blaze of Glory," "Pack up your Troubles," Ord Hume's "Till the Boys Come Home," "Our Director," "The Boys of the Old Brigade" and "Waltzing Matilda."

Obtainable from Hon Secretary, Army Charities Appeal, Victoria Bks, Paddington, NSW 2021, Australia, £2.10 (including postage). **RB**

this dreary mush. What wouldn't I, and you no doubt, have given to hear tunes the Diggers knew, corps marches of the Australian Military Forces, and colonial dance memories.

So this is a centenary album only in name. Again I have to cross swords with the conductor. He is too addicted to Latin American type music, and *à la* Harold Walters at that. Dear friend that he is, I don't think even he would hope to have three of his compositions on one disc. And again I find the music mostly too slow and lacking dynamism. The players are there so give them their head, Mr Head, and let them play galops at galop tempo and the slow movements with onward flow, without stagnation.

A welcome rarity is Marechal's march "Machine Gun Guards." Thereafter I can only offer "Leaps and Bounds" (a slow canter by Spencer Brianne, nom de plume of Major George Willcocks), a selection from "Camelot," post horn solo "The Huntsman," two tunes from "Hair," California Dreaming," "Magic Trumpet," "In an Eighteenth Century Drawing Room" and the three Walters numbers, "Jamaican Folk Suite," "Bossa Nova" and "Mariachi."

Obtainable from Hon Secretary, Army Charities Appeal, Victoria Bks, Paddington, NSW 2021, Australia, £3.40 (including postage). **RB**

"La Citadelle: La Musique du Royal 22e Régiment" (Director of Music: Major Jean F Pierret) (Trans-Canada TC-49002)

From the opening "Signature Musicale" until the National Anthem "O Canada" you are taken by the scruff of the neck and kept in the iron grip of conductor and band. What punch, precision and technical skill this band has—and the recording is superb. I revelled in an amazing range of tone colours, thrilling playing and, above all, the precision. Get this album at whatever cost and trouble.

Known throughout the British Army as the Van Doos (Vingt Deux), this famous regiment has had a band since it was formed at Quebec's Citadelle from an artillery regiment in 1920. Major Pierret was one of the last Canadians to be trained at Kneeler Hall before they formed their own school of music. There is an unmistakably French "joie" and technique in the performances, particularly in the woodwind tone—no British clarinet section could deliberately play out of tune on record and get away with it.

The music is mostly in march time but you would never believe it. The variety of tempo, style and mood achieved here is a lesson to our conductors and producers in putting the items in a sensible order. Repertory marches are "Coronation March," "Le Père de la Victoire," "Knightsbridge" (Eric Coates), "Radetzky," and "Liberty Hall," plus the "Triumphal March" from the film "Quo Vadis?," "Si Tous les Gars du Monde" from another film, and "Marche du Collège Militaire Royal de St-Jean."

The band adopts the modern sound in a *paso-doble* "El Conquistador" and in an attractive medley, "Russie à la Mode," in which "The Flight of the Bumblebee,"



"Stranger in Paradise" and "Sabre Dance" get the treatment. "Auprès de ma Blonde" is also knocked about a bit and "Quebec Chante" is a selection of four local tunes in modern dress.

On re-listening I may have overpraised this disc, but I doubt it. **RB**

"With Brass and Strings" (A Sampler of Radio 2 Bands and Orchestras) (BBC Records RBT 107)

Sunday nights on BBC Radio 2 have the popular programme "Brass and Strings," a title which is sometimes misleading, as here, sounding as it does like brass band and strings although as often as not it is a military band and orchestra.

The Welsh Guards Band, under the late Major Desmond Walker, plays "Music on Command" (a fanfare by the late Lieutenant-Colonel "Jiggs" Jaeger), "Colonel Bogey," Terence Brien's "Spinning Wheel Samba," "Eye Level" and Trevor Sharpe's theme music for the "Heritage" series.

BBC radio orchestras play "Embraceable You," the theme of "Owen MD" under its proper title of "Sleepy Shores," the theme music from "Softly Softly" and a medley of three tunes, "Cara Mia," "Handful of Songs," and "What kind of Fool Am I." Pete Winslow and the King Size Brass contribute "Adeleta" and "Waiting in the Rain" and there are "Misty Morning," played by the Full Score Orchestra, "Sailing By" and three regimental marches already on "The Vanishing Regiments" disc. **RB**



"The Centenary Album" (Band of the Second Military District, Australian Military Forces) (Conducted by Lieutenant Alfred Head) (Festival Records (Australia) L 35277)

How quickly the year has passed! The same band as reviewed above, but with its new title and new conductor, celebrates its hundred years with this musical offering. With the record came, for information, the programme of a concert given by the band in Sydney to mark the occasion, and what a pity they didn't record some of the music from that concert instead of



"Sword of Honour" (The Band of the Royal Corps of Transport) (Director of Music: Major W Allen) (Rediffusion Gold Star 15-23)

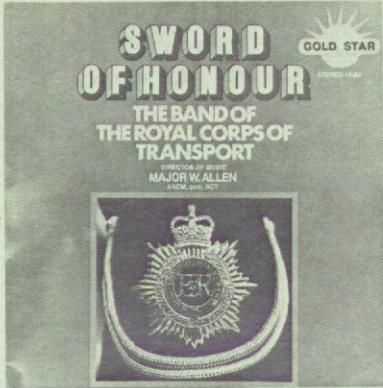
The title of this disc has only a tenuous connection with its contents—a march by Ord Hume called "Old Glory" which was used for the radio series on Evelyn Waugh's book "Sword of Honour." A pity Major Allen didn't know that one of his colleagues, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville, has written a concert march of that name. The music here is all light in character but well enough off the beaten track to be welcomed by collectors.

Marches include the corps quickstep "Wait for the Wagon," yet another "Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch," "Old

Glory," and a medley by Terence Brien, "Marching with Teike." This latter does not delve enough into the composer's less-known marches but is slickly assembled.

Items of the "Latin" type, but mostly born in colder climes, are "Trumpet Fiesta," featuring the trumpets of course, "La Bella Roma" by John Cacavas, "Roses of Seville" by Winslow and Seymour, and a trombone solo beautifully played by its dedicatee, Gordon Campbell, with the very odd title of "Latin Lullaby." Its composer, David Shearn, shouldn't mix his drinks like this. The music is mock tzigane I would have said, with the addition of Latin American noises off. Another of his short pieces is "Mellow Dee," a graceful compliment to the D Company band at Kneller Hall.

The juicier tunes from Dvorak's two sets of "Slavonic Dances" have been put together by Clair Johnson and there is the first movement from the late Norman Richardson's "The Countryman Suite," a catchy example of that peculiarly English form, the miniature overture. My old mentor J W Cole was the composer of many little trifles for band and "The Thrush" (for piccolo) is as good as they come, though no-one ever played it as well as JWC himself. "Galloping Home" and Derek Taylor's "Evening Hymn and Last Post" complete a well-played programme in which I found the solo clarinets and cornets somewhat remote at times. RB



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Round 2 hit a cruiser at B1.
Round 3 missed at D5.
Round 4 hit a destroyer at A8.

Round 5 hit a cruiser amidships at G6.
Round 6 missed at G4.

At this stage the whereabouts of all your opponent's ships is still not known. If you were now to concentrate on putting his battleship out of action (ie hitting it four times), which shots would you have to fire to make certain of sinking it?

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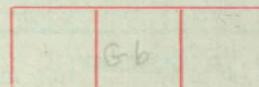
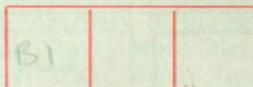
This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 14 July. The answer and winners' names will appear in the September **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 203" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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Battleship



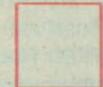
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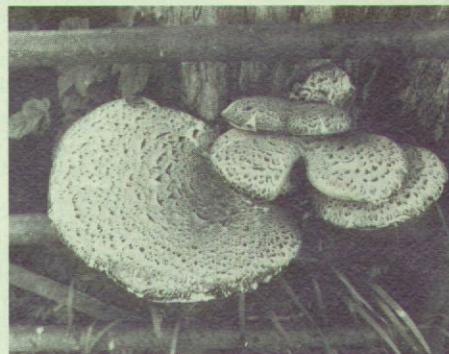


Mycologist Franklin and his hobby.



A Franklin favourite, the Sulphur Tuft.

Military mycologist



Exotic-sounding Dryad's Saddle fungus.

when he traipses home after a day out collecting.

For him there are compensations apart from the discovery of the fungi. Since his studies have shown him there are only three really deadly fungi in this country—and these are rare—he has developed a palate for many of the specimens he has collected and photographed.

"I cook them myself—my wife won't touch them," he says. "Ink Cap is luscious in butter. I live on them in the autumn—they melt in your mouth, they're so tender." Another favourite is *hypholoma fasciculare*—the Latin name trips off his tongue like that of an old friend. It's humble Sulphur Tuft to you and me. And then there's *Boletus*, coloured red, yellow and lime, which is also good to eat, he says.

Lance-Corporal Franklin is never happier than when he is poring over his microscope or photographing specimens in the field. For half the challenge of his hobby is the detailed research each find entails. He explains that not many people take up mycology and he works with a mere handful of textbooks as his guides. When he is really stumped over the identification of a fungus, he contacts an expert at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, who has been a great



Birch Tree Polypore fans from a trunk.

help. In fact the search for fellow mycologists comes second only to the search for specimens and Corporal Franklin has found no society that caters for his hobby.

One of his ambitions is to start such a society. The other is to compile a check list of fungi of the British Isles. But this is a lifetime's work and will have to wait until he leaves the Army and can dedicate more leisure time to his hobby.

As well as camera and microscope, Corporal Franklin has found there are two other essentials for a military mycologist—a good sense of humour and a resilient nature. "People are always taking the mickey," he says. But this has not deterred him in the four years he has been studying fungi.

So deaf is he to the jibes of fellow soldiers that he was not discouraged from bringing his hobby to work. "Someone left a half cup of coffee in the office and it grew mould. I kept it for about four months and it was really grey and furry. It was beautiful!"

His enthusiasm was undaunted by the groans of disgust from the rest of the office staff. But the example highlighted the mycologists's plight . . . and perhaps serves to illustrate why they are as rare as some of the specimens they seek.



The delicate Jew's Ear adorns a tree.

WHEN Lance-Corporal Alan Franklin eagerly cuts a Jew's Ear from an Elder, he is not mutilating a Zionist senior citizen but merely indulging in his hobby of mycology—the study of fungi.

Jew's Ear is a particular favourite of the 26-year-old lance-corporal, not only for its shell-like shape—hence the name—but also because it grows only on elder trees. And it is this kind of rarity in the fungus world that the collector finds fascinating. Another fungus grows only on silver birches in parts of Scotland and Corporal Franklin is proud of the fact that he has managed to track down the elusive growth and photograph it.

Photography is Corporal Franklin's trade in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and his expertise has helped him capture on film the delicate and often impermanent beauties of the fungus world. He now has a collection of some 500 black-and-white and colour pictures as a record of his zealous search for new species.

Many fungi are associated with trees but some live in the danker recesses of the countryside. This means that the enthusiastic mycologist rarely stays dry and clean in the pursuit of his prey. Corporal Franklin admits this is the aspect of his hobby his wife finds least attractive



Ten of the greatest

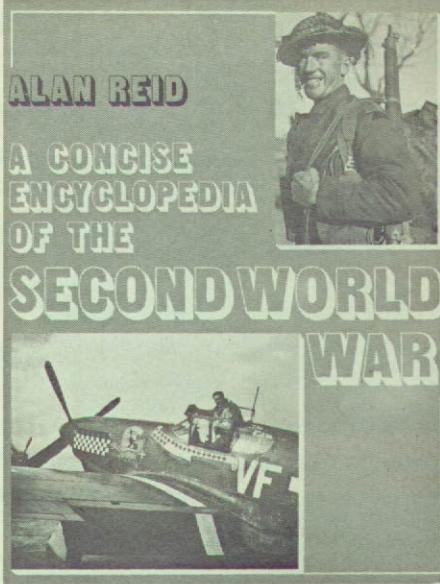
"Famous Military Battles" (A J Barker)

Colonel Barker has selected ten of the greatest battles in world history and, with his usual scholarly and accurate approach, paints a fascinating word portrait of each. They are Bannockburn (1314), Malplaquet (1709), Saratoga (1777), Austerlitz (1805), Gettysburg (1863), Tannenberg (1914), Suvla Bay (1915), Passchendaele (1917), Alamein (1942) and Stalingrad (1942/43).

At Bannockburn, the Scots defeated the English although outnumbered two to one; at Malplaquet, Marlborough won his last battle with the French; Saratoga was the first major disaster for the British in the American war. Austerlitz saw Napoleon beating a combined Austro-Russian army; Gettysburg brought the Yankees their most telling victory in the American Civil War, and Tannenberg thrust the ageing Hindenburg and hard-driving Ludendorff into the gallery of great captains. Suvla Bay, the abortive British attempt to force passage through the Dardanelles, and Passchendaele, the vain bid to reach a decision on the Western Front, have gone down in history as major defeats. Delay and bad luck wrecked both.

One can hardly argue with Colonel Barker's choice of Alamein but instead of his Stalingrad I would have chosen Kursk, the greatest land battle of all time. Stalingrad produced the spirit and the will to win lacking before it, but Kursk, almost always neglected in the West, remains the battle which sealed Germany's fate.

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Perhaps no pictures of the period covered by this book are so effective as those of the American Civil War. Its tragedies become frozen history in untrivied shots of Antietam and Gettysburg.

That the camera can lie was known before the British Journal of Photography revealed that pictures of the Battle of Colenso "were taken on Muswell Hill." Communication (magic word) must always suffer the hazards of human nature, especially when the technical processes are sophisticated, as in television, and the audience passive and uncritical. But the use by early cameramen of cumbersome equipment resulted in pictures curiously convincing by their simplicity.

Each picture is fully described and there is an introductory discussion of the leading photographers, their methods and working conditions.

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strength—and weaknesses—of the armies, navies and air forces of the principal combatant nations, and a review of the civilian involvement covers such subjects as Resistance, air raids and governments in exile.

Maps and a good selection of coloured and black-and-white photographs support the text of this well-researched reference.

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New art form

"Early War Photographs" (Pat Hodgson)

A boy looking at heroic pictures of bayonet charges in the Rover of the 1920s received a view of war very different from what he saw in his father's *The War Illustrated*. The difference was that between imaginative drawings and photographs. In this study of war photographs, taken up to about the year 1900, are the direct, uncomplicated statements of a new art-form in its infancy. Warfare, hitherto colourful and romantic, viewed from the painter's easel, is suddenly drab and immediate. The Crimean Valley of Death is not poetic when it is reduced by the camera to a dirt road, emptied of life and full of spent cannonballs.

tier. The cost was high. At least 500 Belgian, Dutch and French patriots were executed or died in concentration camps; many more died later from their ill-treatment.

Colonel Langley, who ran the operation from London, suggests that for every escaper who got back a patriot died. After losing an arm at Dunkirk as a Coldstream Guards subaltern, he fell into enemy hands but escaped via Lille and Paris to Marseilles. His experience made him the ideal choice for future evasion operations.

He tells his story with humour and modesty but behind it one sees the suspense, ingenuity and heroism which made it a success story. Enthralling, too, is his account of the retreat to Dunkirk with the Guards fighting the rearguard.

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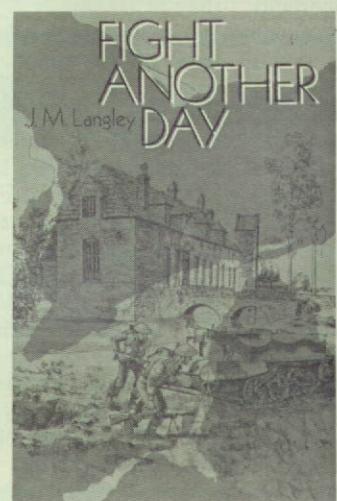
History in camera

"Victoria's Wars" (I F W Beckett)

One of the "History in Camera" series, this valuable little book surveys the Victorian army on service in a variety of climes and conditions over 50 years from Burma in 1852 to Younghusband's expedition to Tibet in 1904. Many of the photographs—the main purpose of the book—are hitherto unpublished. Each group is accompanied by a concise and lucid essay on the campaign concerned.

Rather sadly the author notes that the pride the British took in military achievements was not reflected in concern for the Army itself. It was, for instance, criminal to have sent men to fight in the Crimea in full-dress uniforms, but at least the suffering the British soldier endured there resulted in reforms.

Roger Fenton's Crimean photographs are among the best in this book. Particularly noteworthy is his picture of the remnants of the 13th Light Dragoons—only ten men mounted—after the Charge of the Light Brigade. A particularly evocative picture, photographer unknown, shows Younghusband's column crossing the Jelap-La Pass at 14,800 feet in



Into focus

"A Concise Encyclopedia of the Second World War" (Alan Reid) Mr Reid has produced a short, uncluttered account of how World War Two began, followed by a month-by-month record of land, sea and air operations on all the major fronts. The origins and course of ten of the war's most significant campaigns are lucidly

the Himalayas. On that expedition the water in the machine-guns froze and had to be replaced by a mixture of water, kerosene and rum.

Shire Publications, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks, £1.15

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German paras

"*Hunters From The Sky*" (Charles Whiting)

Mr Whiting is an author who has concentrated his talents on investigating various aspects of World War Two, with particular reference to German activity, which have been overlooked by other historians. Here he tells the story of the German parachute forces whose spectacular successes early in the war spurred the British and the Americans towards forming their own airborne armies.

The taking of the great Belgian fort of Eben Emael in 1940 was a classic airborne operation, yet strangely the Fallschirmjaegers'

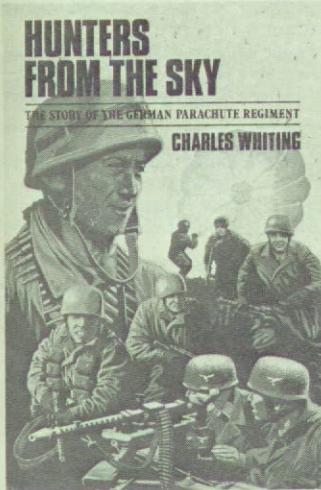
tran sultans, Seminole and Creek Indians. The mid-19th century saw them as the spearhead of American expansion in Mexico as well as in Nicaragua, Uruguay and Paraguay. During the Civil War they gained useful experience of amphibious landings and as defenders of US property and citizens the marines saw action against Moslem Moros in the Philippines, Boxers in China, Caco terrorists in Haiti and even against their own gangsters.

In World War One their stubborn fight at Chateau Thierry, blunting Ludendorff's 1918 offensive, earned them the title of Teufelshunden (Devil Dogs). In World War Two they became a household name with their gallant actions at Guam, Wake Islands, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. They suffered 86,000 casualties and won 80 medals of honour.

Korea, with proud memories of Inchon and Choisin, was probably the last traditional type of conflict; Vietnam, with its bitter memories of Da Nang, Hue and Khe Sanh, was probably the first of a new kind of fighting—vicious, confusing, devoid of any clear-cut objectives or solutions. The 110,000 casualties represent the evidence.

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most important victory—the capture of Crete—sowed the seeds of their destruction. The German paras suffered such colossal losses that Hitler jibbed at their further large-scale employment—they fought on as superb infantry.

General Kurt Student was their founder and commander and his victories in Holland and Belgium made him a national hero. Paradoxically, Student's paras fought their last battle against their own countrymen when, in May 1945, the German 8th Parachute Division operated against SS units which had decided to continue the war.

On popular level, Mr Whiting does justice to Germany's parachute troops, but they still await the attention of a historian who can give them the in-depth treatment they deserve.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL, £4.25

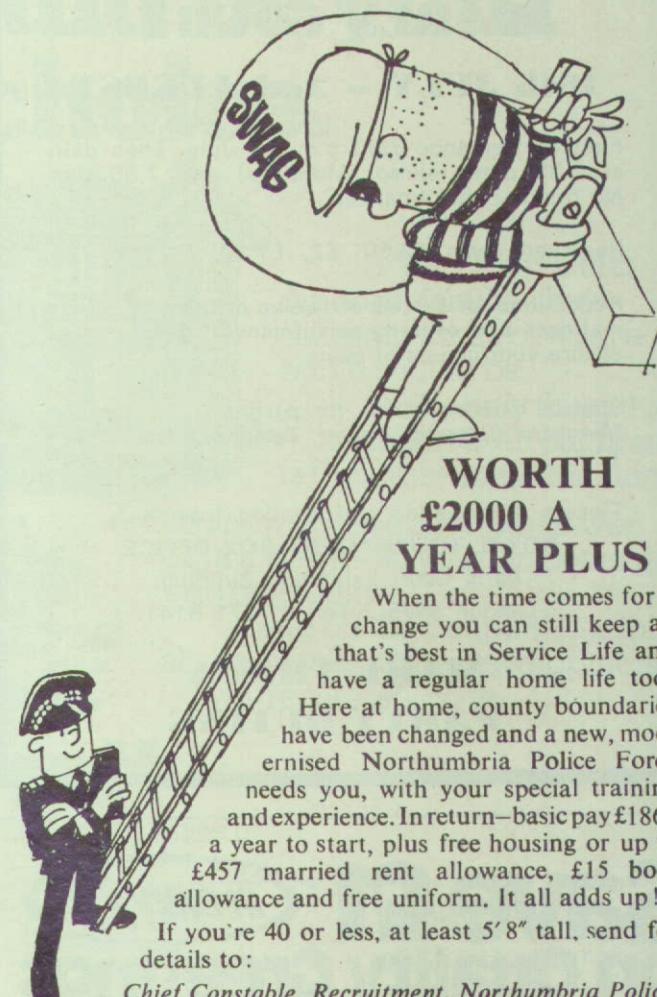
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Leathernecks

"*The United States Marines*" (E H Simmons)

The US Marines were created in the 18th century when the American colonies struggled to be independent of Britain. It was not long before the "Leathernecks" were fighting Algerian corsairs, Creole pirates, Suma-

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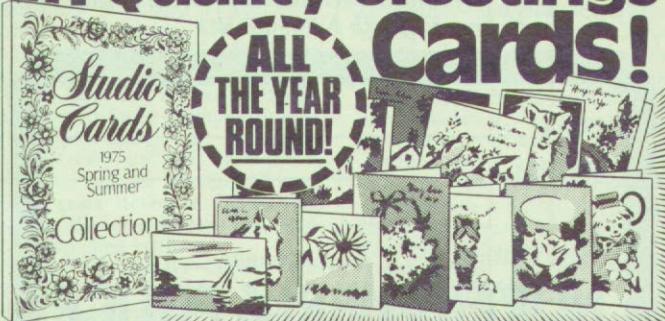
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BOOKS

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Reporter's view

"In Holy Terror" (Simon Winchester)

With few signs of peace or an end to the agony of Northern Ireland, this book, sub-titled "Reporting the Ulster Troubles," is timely and topical. Mr Winchester, the *Guardian's* man in Belfast for two-and-a-half years, was named Journalist of the Year for his reporting during 1971.

Some of his pronouncements, particularly on the role of the Army, are ill-judged and one wonders by which yardstick he makes his measure.

Perhaps the book's greatest value will be to fellow-journalists. His tips on news-gathering and reporting are sound and his respect for sub-editors will, I am sure, be greeted with grave nods of approval around subs' tables up and down the country.

Soldiers too may find something interesting in Mr Win-



chester's account for though he is by no means complimentary to the Army he gives a useful insight into newspaper reaction to Ulster's situations.

On the whole, however, it remains on the level of a personal memoir of the type Fleet Street men love to relate but which most of them are wise enough not to commit to paper.

Faber & Faber, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AU, £3.25

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IN BRIEF

"Practical Wargaming" (C F Wesencraft)

When Mr Wesencraft, a former gunner officer, took up serious wargaming, he found that rule books never appeared to combine known unit sizes with weapon efficiency and tactics.

So he decided to write his own splendid handbook for wargamers spanning the history of warfare from earliest-known times to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. It presents the reader with the problems faced by commanders in bygone days, the limitations and inaccuracies of weapons and communications, and the importance of morale. Easily playable sets of rules govern the action; using them,

the wargamer can attempt to reverse the course of history.

The Elmfield Press, Elmfield Road, Morley, Leeds, LS27 0NN, £3.80

"Clangers in Uniform" (Lieutenant-Colonel R J Dickinson and Bill Hooper)

A delightful collection of blunders, boos, botches, bloomers, bon mots, quips and muck-ups, of sending-ups and putting-downs — which are said (no doubt with tongue in cheek) to have happened in the armed Services.

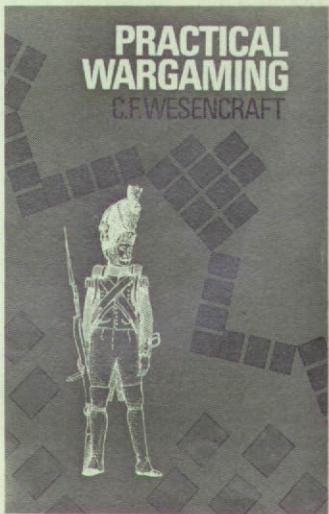
I particularly liked the one about the legendary RSM Brand who at Sandhurst addressed King Hussein of Jordan thus: "Mr King Hussein, sir, you're the most idle King cadet it has been my misfortune to try to drill, sir." Talk about "lazy majesty"! *Midas Books, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 0NX, 75p*

"King Charles, Prince Rupert and the Civil War" (Edited by Sir Charles Petrie)

One day in 1822 a village cobbler bought at auction an old oak chest full of tiles. Beneath them lay history in the shape of letters written to and by Sir Thomas Fairfax, the great Parliamentary leader in the Civil War. These and other letters, including the correspondence of Prince Rupert, have been edited and moulded into a most readable and enjoyable book by Sir Charles Petrie, whose literary accomplishments need no further comment.

Perhaps pure parochialism makes this reviewer enjoy reading of the Civil War. With this slim volume however it was the pleasure gained from reading a book from end to end, a book with other people's letters in it, and reading without that jolting feeling which so often accompanies such a work.

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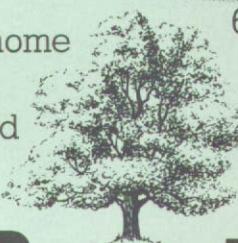
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